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A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF SAFEHAVEN

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the
VOICE

SPRING 2009 EDITION

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RELAX, RECHARGE & RENEW

Rewarding Local Parent Heroes

If you were to ask eleven Safehaven families to name the highlight of the past six months, each would have the same answer: Relax, Recharge & Renew. What is this unique program?

Created by Tourism Toronto, this initiative was created to give families a chance to have a break from the strains of raising a child with severe special needs. Andrew Weir, Tourism Toronto's vice-president of communications, says: "We were looking for a way to help kids and realized that sometimes the best way to help them is to do

something for their parents." What better way to do it than to provide parents with an all-expenses paid weekend in Toronto, tailored to their tastes, while their child enjoys their respite stay. Tourism Toronto's goal is to help about 100 families per year. With over 250 families enjoying respite care at Safehaven's residential and respite care homes, we were very excited about the initiative.

Safehaven, Bloorview Children's Rehab and Community Living Toronto quickly agreed to take part and identify families in their communities who were most in need. Relax, Recharge & Renew is also available in York Region.

Safehaven was honoured to host the official press launch of the program last August and particularly honoured that a Safehaven family was the first one to be swept away in a limo for a free weekend getaway. The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Children & Youth Services, addressed the audience, calling parents of children with severe special needs "heroes". She echoed the thoughts of all of us when she said: "I just didn't



Stacey Ryan, Harold Fortis and Hudson begin their weekend away.



L to R: Terry Mundell, President Greater Toronto Hotel Assoc.; Beverley Gordon, CEO, Safehaven; David Whitaker, CEO, Tourism Toronto; The Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Children & Youth Services; Val Hortiguuela, President Safehaven Board.

know how many families were taking care of kids at home and facing enormous challenges. These are the people who put the rest of their lives on hold so they can be the very best parents they can be. I don't think we pay enough tribute to the parent heroes." Tourism Toronto President and CEO David Whitaker spoke on behalf of Tourism Toronto and kicked off the program, thanking the participating businesses.

Two families are selected every week and have a choice between three packages: couple, family and single-parent. For the first Safehaven family weekend, Stacey Ryan, her husband Harold Fortis and son Hudson, were given free meals at Joe Badali's Ristorante Italiano & Bar and Hot House

Cafe, free passes to the ROM, CN Tower and the Bata Shoe Museum, a two night stay at the Delta Chelsea and tickets to a sporting event – and their daughter Sadler was safe and sound at Safehaven.

Stephanie and Keith Grattan, another Safehaven family said: "The experience was far more than we could have ever imagined. Getting away, yet being able to stay close to our daughter helped us to re-connect as a couple. We have never left the city without her, so this was a mini vacation, like being away." They enjoyed dinner at the Irish Embassy Pub & Grill and a stay at Toronto's premiere five star hotel, The Hazelton.

Andrew Weir hopes that the program will run for a long time, "as long as the sponsorship from member companies keeps coming in." Safehaven and the other partner agencies, hope Relax, Recharge & Renew continues for a long time. It is important recognition that parents are doing valuable work and are appreciated, and an important break from daily stress.

For more information about Relax, Recharge & Renew, families should access the agency that provides respite care to their child or call Safehaven. ❤️

the VOICE

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Caring Community

PARTNERSHIPS



Scotiabank Takes to the Road

Safehaven is very excited to be part of a Scotiabank fundraiser called "Tour de Toronto North". Toronto North District's Multi-Cultural Committee collected suggestions for charities and then interviewed a number of them. We were fortunate that **Tony Zingaro** suggested Safehaven to them and even more fortunate that Safehaven was chosen this year as one of their charities.

This is the third annual fundraiser put on by 25 Scotiabank branches in the Toronto North District. The 17 cyclists and support team will be leaving Markham & McNicoll branch on June 2nd to Wasaga Beach and returning on June 3rd for a total of 260 kilometers. These are not avid cyclists; they are bankers who want to make a difference by supporting the community. The riders will be collecting pledges and the branches will be

supporting their teams by holding various fundraising events during the month of May, 2009.

We need you to support Scotiabank's bike ride. Scotiabank has chosen to fund a Snoezelen Room at our Woodbridge location which involves converting part of the garage into a unique space designed to benefit those with sensory, cognitive and physical disabilities. A Snoezelen Room provides stimulation and relaxation through the use of smell, touch, sound, colour and light in a safe, comfortable environment. Scotiabank's donation will give Safehaven an opportunity to build our second Snoezelen Room so that our children in both York and Toronto regions will have access to a unique therapeutic experience.

At the beginning of May, everyone will be able to make a donation online, either directly to Safehaven or for a specific rider.

For more information, check out Safehaven's website, www.safehaven.to

Orbital Groove

The University of Toronto's medical school Class of 1T0 adopted Safehaven as their charity of choice and have donated proceeds from various school fundraisers to Safehaven. During the past year, 12 med students, calling themselves *Orbital Groove*, gave three concerts at public venues, selling tickets to friends, family and all students at the medical school.

The members of Orbital Groove are only allowed to participate for 1-2 years. In the third year, they are out of the band and new members are recruited.

Sarah Mahmoud, singer in the band and a med student from the 2010 class said, "It's a great way to relax and do something good at the same time."

Safehaven is grateful to Orbital Groove and the 1T0 medical school class for their support and donation.

"Healing Tonics Choir" Visits Safehaven

Healing Tonics is an amateur choir, made up of Medicine, Health Science and Music students from the University of Toronto that performs at nursing homes, hospitals and shelters in the community. Safehaven was privileged to have almost a dozen members of the choir come to Bloor Street. Staff



Healing Tonics visits Bloor

and children from all our houses joined us for a wonderful hour long program of jazz standards, Broadway, Disney and international selections – with clap along and some sing along selections included! The children responded by smiling and nodding to the music and the warmth and energy of the students in the choir. Everyone enjoyed the potluck dinner afterwards which allowed the choir to mingle with staff and children.

Thank you Healing Tonics for bringing so much pleasure and fun to Safehaven.

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School: Grade 5

A Jewish proverb states that “What you give for the cause of charity in health is gold; what you give in sickness is silver; what you give after death is lead.” This is a lesson that a Jewish day school in

midtown Toronto is enthusiastically teaching their students. Their contribution to Safehaven has been a personal one, as well as a monetary one. For the past three years, the Grade 5 class at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School has volunteered at Safehaven. Beginning with an introductory visit and tour of Bloor Street arranged by their teacher **Kate Sable**, the children have brought

♥ *What you give for the cause of charity in health is gold; what you give in sickness is silver; what you give after death is lead.* ♥

hand puppets and hand made musical instruments to give the children staying in Safehaven’s respite home. After that visit, the students come back on a weekend in small groups (with parental supervision) and play one on one with our children.

At the end of last year, the Grade 5 class presented Safehaven with a donation which was collected over the course of their weekly “tzeda-kahs”, the giving of money to charity as an introduction to the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest. The children enjoyed their visits to Safehaven and we enjoyed having them here. It was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School: Grade 7 and 8

Two years after the first grade 5 class volunteered at Safehaven, we welcomed them back with a special gift to Safehaven. The grade 7 and 8 class, with teacher **Seth Goldsweig**, studied creation and learned that the story of the creation of the world is one told by many different cultures throughout the

world. The students at Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School learned about many of these stories and synthesized them into a painting. Elements of the creation story from the following cultures were incorporated: Judeo-Christian, Muslim, Native,



PPDJDS Creation Mural

Continued on page 6...

Scientology, Aztec, Inuit, H'mung, Hindu, Japan, Maori, Egypt, Voodoo, Norse and Greek.

A group came to Safehaven at the end of the year to present us with their beautiful work of art.

We have it hung – with great pleasure and pride – at Bloor. Make sure you see it at your next visit!

PricewaterhouseCoopers Helps Out!

Safehaven is always looking for help.



Eric Clarke

At the suggestion of **Eric Clarke**, Safehaven's Board Treasurer and partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Safehaven applied to their Foundation and asked to be considered for their Team

Volunteering Program. PwC's mission is to make a positive, lasting change in their communities by sharing their time, expertise and resources. Aligned with that mission, the Program entitles PwC's Canadian staff and partners, numbering 5,500, to one day off work each year to participate in a volunteer activity with a registered charity. Teams of 6-10 people are approved and contribute an honorarium for each activity.

Safehaven is grateful that we have been approved for the program and the first two activities have been accepted. In May, one PwC team will work a day at our Glenaden home, landscaping and planting in our gardens. In June, another PwC team will go to our Aurora home and will cook and freeze soups, casseroles and meals for the residents. The landscaping project will ready the residence for our annual "Family Planting Day"; the cooking at Aurora will free up time so our employees and residents can enjoy carefree outings throughout the summer and not have to worry about rushing home to cook a meal.



Thanks, PwC, for donating your time and talents to Safehaven. Perhaps you know a way your company can help us!

Report from Kids Up Front



Over the past 3 years, Safehaven has been fortunate to receive tickets to sporting events, theatre productions, concerts, theme parks and other world-class events when donors give tickets they are not using to Kids Up Front. Our residential and respite children have had a great time,

and Kids Up Front always makes sure we are included when wheelchair seats are available.

In 2008 Kids Up Front distributed an amazing total of 21,884 experiences to their partner agencies (currently 107). The total value of these experiences is \$634,059.



A Blue Jays game for Kids Up Front guests.

Safehaven is thrilled to have received a total of 153 tickets from Kids Up Front – to movies, theatre, the Rom and sporting events - at a total value of \$2,075 in 2008.

We would like to thank Kids Up Front and their donors for helping us provide life enhancing experiences to our children and their families. ❤️

saf haven in Aurora

It would be difficult to find a more generous and welcoming community for one of our residential homes than Aurora. Many community initiatives over the past year have benefited Saf haven and given our residents fabulous outings which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

Flower Power Fashion Show

All the residents from our Aurora home attended a "Flower Power Fashion Show" at Cardinal Golf Club. Organized by **Brenda McArthur, Lisa Rodek & Sam Arnold** of **Ego Hair Studio**, the guests were treated to marvelous fashions and



Staff and residents from Aurora had an amazing time at the Flower Power Fashion Show.

accessories. Great flower power themed music by a local DJ, a cameo performance

by **George St. Kitts**, flowers, love beads and funds raised for Saf haven were all wrapped around a fun night! Thank you everybody for a great time.



The Aurora Dream Team, under the leadership of Sher St. Kitts, organized the Canada Day Parade in Aurora and invited Saf haven's residents to be in the parade on Yonge Street.

Aurora employee **Brenda Keilley**, who embraces every project with enthusiasm, along with our Wilfred Laurier University summer student **Miranda Giacomini**, coordinated the efforts of our Aurora home. Local Aurora artist, **Robin Matthew**, decorated their float into a Canadian beach party complete with a blue balloon (water) base around wheelchair wheels, red/white umbrellas, a bubble-blowing machine to make the surf, and of course, our appropriately attired children! **Kevin Verderpost**, owner of Mastercuts Property Services, generously donated the flat bed with driver. Kevin enjoyed it so much he has already offered to be there for Saf haven for the 2009 parade!

This "Great Canadian Parade" was the finest parade Aurora has ever had since 1967. Our Saf haven residents, accompanied by staff and families,

proudly rode through town honouring Canada. They were even more excited to be invited to Town Hall when **Mayor Phyllis Morris** presented two Saf haven children with the BEST RED HOT CANADIAN WHEELS float award. Mayor Morris is a caring friend and supporter and has visited our Aurora home on many occasions.

Watch for Saf haven Aurora in this year's parade. We're very excited about taking part again! We know this year will be a great success.



Aurora decorates Saf haven's Canada Day.



Saf haven family members join Aurora residents in the parade



Johnny K. and Alex B. ride proudly on Saf haven's float.

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L to R: Sher St. Kitts and Mary Georgopoulos of Jonathan's Restaurant present a cheque to Susan Gudofsky.

Get Your Greek On

In March 2009, Jonathan's Fine Foods Restaurant and owner **Mary Georgopoulos** celebrated its 20th anniversary in Aurora. Described by many regular customers as "the heart of Aurora", Safehaven was delighted when Mary decided to donate proceeds from her anniversary party to Safehaven. It was a connection tinged with memories - and celebration. One of Mary's employees, Dennis Konstantelos, had been with her for over 19 years. He was, she said, "a very important part of the Jonathan's family." Dennis passed away early this year but when it was suggested she donate to Safehaven, she felt "Dennis was with her." Dennis' son is a resident at Safehaven's Aurora home;

the link seemed natural. The anniversary party was dedicated to Dennis and featured a fabulous silent auction, Greek dinner, Greek music, and dancing and "celebrity servers". Dressed in typical costume, **Mayor Phyllis Morris** and former mayor **Tim Jones**, both staunch supporters of Safehaven, waited on customers and joined in the dancing and celebration. Mary came to meet all the



Mayor Morris as a "celebrity server"

residents and staff at Aurora and presented Safehaven with a cheque for over \$2,800. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this very special evening.

If you would like to include Safehaven in your special event plans, please call the office and we'll be happy to help you. ❤️

UPCOMING in **AURORA**

Aurora Jazz + Festival

Are you a Jazz aficionado? Do you love community festivals? If so, reserve the date of **August 1, 2009**, the Saturday of the Civic Holiday weekend for Aurora's First Jazz + Festival.



It will be held at Aurora's heritage Town Park, in conjunction with the Aurora Farmer's Market and a new Arts & Culture Centre just opening in Aurora. **George and Sher St. Kitts** and Councillor **Stephen Granger** who are organizing and producing the festival, hope that it will grow

into a 3 day multi-park event engulfing the town in jazz and music by local musicians, known jazz talents and much more!

This will be a family – friendly day including activities for children and food for the whole family.

The organizers have chosen Safehaven as their charitable recipient and hope to raise both funds and awareness.

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Aurora's Town Park

Contact 905-841-6489 for more information

Please mark your calendars and come out and enjoy the Festival and support Safehaven at the same time.

Mayor Morris' Swap & Sale

Aurora's Mayor, **Phyllis Morris**, is asking all children and teens to clean out their garages and closets and bring old toys, bikes, stuffed animals, books, clothes and more to swap or sell. Proceeds will be donated to Safehaven!

The "Swap & Sale" will take place on Saturday, August 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Aurora Town Park. There will be a minimal fee to register. Interested children and teens can keep checking the Town of Aurora website, www.e-aurora.ca, for more details. ❤️

A Child's Perspective

The "Project Give Back" initiative was launched by Ellen Schwartz, the mother of a young boy named Jacob, and the founder of Jacob's Ladder (see www.jacobsladder.com). It follows Ministry guidelines geared to augmenting the Grade 4-5 Language Arts Program and is aimed at enhancing responsibility and developing a desire to make a difference in the lives of others. Children choose a charity, develop a fundraiser, send letters to sponsors, raise awareness and support a cause for those less fortunate.

Safehaven was chosen by a Leo Baeck Day School Grade 5 student **Ephrem King**, as his Project Give Back charity of choice. Ephrem had been at Safehaven for one of our concerts. What follows is his speech to his class about Safehaven.



Hi Everyone:

I am going to be talking about being paralyzed.

I chose Safehaven because they have children who are paralyzed and have multiple disabilities.

Most of the children at Safehaven can't walk, talk, see or hear. They need lots of medical help. I have gone to Safehaven and read to a kid who was paralyzed and wasn't so good at talking. It was a little scary at first, but then I realized it was fun and he was a nice kid, just like you or me. People shouldn't be afraid of kids with disabilities because they are nice and you just have to get to know them!!

When I think about Safehaven, I think about these 3 words: **Responsibility**, **Community** and **Care**. We all have a **Responsibility** to help others who can't take care of themselves. We are all part of a **Community**, including these children. **Caring** for others is the right thing to do.

For more information about Project Give Back, please go to www.projectgiveback.com ❤️

Are You Moving?

*If you're moving, please remember to forward your address and telephone number so you can still receive The Voice and we can keep our records up-to-date. Forward your new contact information to admin@safehaven.to or call **416-535-8525**.*



In Memory: **Sean Dylan LeBlanc**

With profound sadness, we said goodbye to Sean LeBlanc, beloved son of Anya Wilson and Larry LeBlanc, brother of Robin, who passed away on March 11, 2009 at the age of 19.

Sean was a resident of our Clayland home for 15 years. Ann and Larry have served on our Board of Directors and various committees throughout the years.

Saf haven employees were very touched that Ann and Larry publicly acknowledged the loving care Sean received from them. We would like to share with you the eulogy that was delivered by Susan Adaskin, principal of Sean's school, Park Lane School on behalf of his special education teacher Alicya Parrish, who was unable to attend the service.

I'm sad today. Although I am not here with all of you to be a part of the grieving process, I am blessed to be able to share some of my wonderful memories of Sean with you.

Over the last few years, each time I have gone away on a vacation somewhere tropical I have taken Darphin with me. (*Editor's note: Darphin is a rubber toy dolphin.*) He is the mascot of Room 1, quickly adopted when we noticed how a little squeak from Darphin could light up Sean's face, with a smile that would brighten anyone's day...

...Sean was our classroom songbird. He loved the sound of birds. There is a CD of birdsongs which we could always count on to calm Sean and to elicit some singing. I always knew when

Sean arrived at school in the morning (as long as he was awake) because he made his presence known. I could hear him calling out, singing and chatting even before he rounded the corner for the classroom... He could also be counted on to have the loudest singing voice in the class, holding notes longer than some of the best singers I know, always ringing clear and true. His voice will be one of the things we miss the most. It certainly has not been an easy journey for Sean in the time that I have known him, but it has been one filled with joy. I often remarked when I spoke with Ann how much joy Sean brought to the classroom, how his personality simply filled up the room, and how he knew how to get his way, to make his presence known! There were tough times, difficulties with his wheelchair and seating in general, some coughs and colds, a little gas here and there – even a few hospital visits, one in particular which comes to mind. It was at that hospital visit where I spent some quality time with Ann and Sean that I learned more about him, how he loved babies, and got to see him basking, glowing in his mother's love. Each time Ann and Larry visited Sean at school or dropped him off he was thrilled to have a visit, always perking up

immediately at the sound of their voices, and just hearing anything at all about his brother Robin made him smile!

There are a million other stories... Sean glowing in a mud mask, visits with the therapy dog, listening to the Orff instruments, boom whackers, tambourines and chimes, rolling down the hall in the big symmetrikit chair, participating with his friends from room 2 in the integration dance program where he was wildly popular with the students from the visiting schools... everything Sean did he did with such contagious enthusiasm and joy.

Ann, Larry, Robin and all of you here who loved Sean – I know there is a big hole in your life now... While I have only known Sean for a few years, I can honestly say that the impact of having had the chance to know him, to sing with him, to love him and to care for him is something I will always cherish. It has made me a better person.

May you always remember Sean with a smile on his face. May that bring comfort to your soul and joy to your heart. ❤️

THE VALUE OF EMPLOYEES

Dedicated and focused employees are the heart and soul of an organization. According to HR experts, there is ample evidence that staff at organizations with high engagement report better physical health, lower job stress and work overload and greater financial security. Safehaven has a workplace program created collaboratively with staff that encourages engagement and commitment.



In January, Safehaven published its first calendar, focusing on our employees. That was the momentum behind each residence's decision to plan a fundraising project which will take place in the coming months. Employees will work as teams to decide what they want to do. Then they will publicize the event to families and other houses, manage it, and share the proceeds. The 50/50 fundraisers will generate funds for Safehaven and for each residence.

In February, Safehaven's two social workers, **Elsa van der Linden** and **Cheryl Davies**, hosted a "Pancake Breakfast" at Bloor. It not only helped us raise money, but also raised morale during a cold winter day. In March, for a second year, **Paula Gomes** with help from her mother **Maria Figueiredo** and mother-in-law **Maria Teixeira**, put on a "Sweet Day". Mrs. Figueiredo and Mrs. Teixeira are sensational cooks and bakers of traditional Portuguese treats. Additional Safehaven bakers, including one with a specialty in chocolate chip cookies, added to the goodies.

Over the summer, there is a scheduled pool party, Glenaden street fest and an Aurora Canada Day Parade. Employees bring their children and extended family members. With everybody participating in the activity, it gives the employees an opportunity to share with their families why they look forward to coming to work. Safehaven is very fortunate to have incredible employees who go above and beyond the call of duty every day. It's not surprising then, to know that HR theory says that people who enjoy what they're doing will take on a lot! We have found a winning combination. ❤️

Melting the Iceberg:

Overcoming the Fear of Estate Planning

Arthur Fish, LL.B., Partner, Borden, Ladner, Gervais LLP.



This article does not offer legal advice but rather discusses issues that commonly arise for parents with disabled children. When making a concrete plan people should obtain legal advice from their own lawyer.

The Iceberg

I've met thousands of parents with seriously disabled children. All of them knew that they needed to do some estate planning. Many of them were very well informed about what they needed to do. And the majority of these people procrastinated – often for many years, and never for less than two. Even after they got started many of these people become frozen – unable to make decisions – for long periods of time. Parents of disabled children carry around a heavy burden of fears, anxieties and needs that lead to procrastination. I call that burden the “Iceberg,” and this article is about how to get past it. The problem for parents of disabled children is that

they have *so much* more at stake in estate planning than other people do. As most parents age their children slowly mature into full independence: death becomes less frightening for these parents, because they have less to be frightened about. But as the parents of a seriously disabled child age they become less able to meet their children's needs, but the needs remain great - or even increase. Every mother of a disabled child sometimes lies awake at night, her mind buzzing with concerns and fears centred on what will become of her child when she is gone. The prospect of directly thinking about death – of estate planning – intensifies those concerns and fears so that it seems impossible to address them. The result is procrastination: why bother addressing the impossible?

Don't Start with Technicalities

Most parents I meet start their estate planning by addressing technical issues. They amass a file folder of information about the disability tax credit, registered disability savings plans, the Ontario Disability Support Program, “Henson” trusts, etc., but they do not act. Their minds tell them that it is all about taxes and money, but their hearts scream that money alone will not protect their child. People

need to Melt the Iceberg before they can make real progress, and that process has four steps:

1. Name the fears.
 2. Bring them into realistic perspective.
 3. Identify and address the most pressing human issues.
 4. Develop and Implement a plan.
- This article focuses on the first three steps.

Name the Fears

There are six fears that I hear people express over and over again:

- **No one will duplicate what I do**
- **Someone will duplicate what I do**
- **He'll fall through the cracks**
- **Predators**
- **Poverty**
- **Excessive wealth (depriving other children)**

The first concern is the most general. Parents fear that they can never replicate the care and attention they devote to their disabled children. This is completely justified: no one is likely to ever love a child as intensely or unselfishly as its parents do. But if it is impossible to replicate parents' care, it is foolish to

try and a more realistic goal is needed. I propose: *To implement an estate plan that, all things considered, makes the best possible use of available personal, family, social and public resources to provide the best possible life for a disabled child.*

Many parents find it hard to accept that they must content themselves with “the best possible” for their children and no more. For people who have often spent years protecting their children from the “realism” of self-appointed experts, accepting a limit feels like abandonment. How many times have I sat in a silent room with parents whose guilt was so intense it seemed a living thing? Although real and intense, this feeling is untrue. Death is inescapable, so realistic estate planning is the opposite to abandonment. And I have learned from experience that parental estate planning makes things better – much better – for their disabled children, and not planning invites disaster. In my world, disaster has a precise meaning: the wrong person makes personal or financial decisions for a disabled person, the decisions are bad, disrupt the person’s life and cause avoidable harm. The desire for ideal care for disabled children should be channelled into advocacy for organizations like Safehaven, while estate planning is directed by more realistic goals.

Why do parents fear that it may actually be possible to replicate the care they provide to a disabled child, if in their heart or hearts they know this is impossible? There are few experiences as intense as caring for a disabled child, and the greater the disability the more intense the experience. In practice estate planning often requires planning for a child’s departure from the family home, and this represents a loss for the parent – especially if he or she has already lost a spouse. A parent’s heart always pangs at a child’s departure, and the longer the separation is delayed the greater the sense of loss when it arrives.

The next issues on the list are the need for advocacy and sound decision making, followed by the secure provision of the necessities of life and procuring an optimal amount of wealth. This is a rank ordering, because once the need for advocacy and decision making has been addressed, and a decision has been made about where a child will live, the more technical concerns tend to fall quickly into place.

Who Decides What?

This article is directed at people whose children are incapable of making all or most of their own

decisions. Estate planning in this context requires appointing people to make decisions for the disabled child. This is the most crucial decision in the entire estate plan, and until it is made it is difficult to move on to any other issue. “Who will replace us” is a huge question for people, that should be broken into discrete issues.

Convey Information: Parents of disabled children often spend years learning how to meet their child’s needs. They tend to shelter other family members, especially the disabled child’s siblings, from this process. The result is that only the parents have the information needed to make good decisions, and so no one else can ever make good decisions. There are two ways to overcome this problem. First, encourage parents to invite other family members into the disabled person’s life. Second, have parents do a care plan. That is, once a year record in writing all the crucial information that a decision maker needs, and make it available to others. This plan should include such things as contact information for health care providers, medications, allergies, likes and dislikes, and a list of services that the parents provide for their child.

Continued on page 14...

Separate Advocacy from Decision-Making: A person may act as an advocate for a disabled person without being a decision maker. The concept of a “circle of care” has emerged precisely as a means of allowing people who are not decision makers to be advocates. This involves forming a group of people who agree to visit a disabled person on a fixed schedule. The goal is to ask no one individual to carry a heavy burden, and to have a group of people monitoring the disabled person. In some families a “circle” of friends, siblings, and other relatives naturally forms around a disabled person. Even without relatives, Church or Synagogue groups or community associations are often happy to become involved in forming a Circle.

Separate Personal and Financial Decision Making: To ensure that a disabled person is well cared for it is necessary to have a decision maker for financial matters, and another for personal matters, especially health care. One person may play both roles but this is not necessary, and often is undesirable. Parents commonly separate these functions by appointing a trust company to act as the executor of an estate and trustee of a trust for the disabled child. Here is an example to show how this works.

Ethel is an 84 year old widow with two children: Ethel Jr. and Robert. Ethel has three children in high school and a demanding job: Robert has pervasive developmental delays and lives in a group home. Ethel appoints a trust company as the executor of her estate and trustee of a trust for Robert. Her Will directs the trust company to pay for Ethel to apply to court to become the guardian of Robert’s person. The Will also gives Ethel Jr. the ability to remove and replace the trust company if she is dissatisfied with them. This frees Ethel Jr. from the burden of managing finances, but leaves her well positioned to ensure that they are well managed.

Attributes of a good decision maker: My clients often torture themselves by thinking that they need a professional – like a lawyer, accountant or stock broker – as an executor. Or they agonize over hurting the feelings of people who will want the appointment, but who do not deserve to have it. I offer these common sense principles to get people started in the right direction:

- *A decision maker can always hire professional advisors;*
- *Thoughtfulness, honesty and caring are vastly*

more important than technical competence; and,

- *Only a loving, honest and trustworthy person should be given authority over a vulnerable disabled person.*

It is also possible to summarize the four essential attributes of a good decision maker for a disabled person:

Honesty: Anyone who makes decisions for a disabled person is subject to temptation. People with a history of succumbing to temptation should not be appointed to a position that requires great trustworthiness, e.g. do not appoint people with known addiction to drugs, gambling or alcohol or a history of impulsive decision making.

Diplomacy: I have repeatedly seen matters end up in litigation because an executor or trustee was rude or arrogant. A decision maker for a disabled person must be able to co-operate with others and to elicit their co-operation. Often whatever is left of the money set aside for the disabled person will go to other family members, and they are entitled to receive civil and informative answers to their legitimate questions.

Integrity: This means the ability to recognize one's own limits, and seek and take advice as required, e.g. a person who knows nothing about how to administer a trust, should ask a lawyer for advice. A person who "knows it all" is highly likely to cause trouble for himself or the disabled person.

No "fixers": It often takes parents years to learn what is best for their disabled child. Many disabled people thrive on a consistent routine, and for them any change carries risks. Fixers are people who do not understand that it is much easier to make things worse for a disabled person than it is to make them better. Many loving and intelligent people simply do not "get" disability. (I recently saw an Uncle berate a young child with severe dyslexia because the child could not follow along as the Uncle lovingly held him in his lap and read him a book. The Uncle, a good but impatient man, thought he could will the child into literacy. The decision maker for a disabled person, especially a decision maker for personal matters, should be a person who understands disability – or has the patience to learn.

Shelter and support

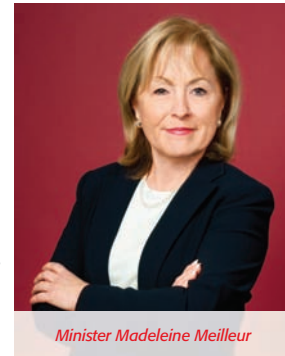
The next item for decision is "where will the person live." With a child who already resides outside the home, this translates into, "how do we keep the status quo in place." With a child who resides with parents, this usually translates into "how do we make the transition to living outside the family home." Many parents assume that their child will remain forever in the family home, even though this is usually impractical and undesirable. It is impractical because it is too expensive, and undesirable because it invites isolation and loneliness. Either way, after the "where" decision is made, the final element of estate planning – wealth – is easier to address, because it becomes possible to realistically estimate future care costs.

Conclusion

There are many technical issues to consider in estate planning for a disabled child. But technicalities are nothing in comparison with the urgent demands of a parent's heart, and technicalities will not be dealt with until those demands have been heard and answered. ❤️

FROM INSTITUTIONAL LIFE to *Community Living*

On March 31, 2009, the Ontario Ministry of Community & Social Services under Minister Madeleine Meilleur, closed the doors of the last three institutions for people with a developmental disability.



When the first institution opened in Orillia in 1876, knowledge about disabilities was very different. People with disabilities were viewed as patients, not citizens. Doctors believed that people with a developmental disability needed to be removed from the stresses and demands of everyday life. Families were counseled to place their loved ones in institutions where they would be cared for and protected. While institutions were deliberately built outside of main urban areas because of the desire for cleaner air and open spaces, this had the effect of isolating the

Continued on page 16...

residents from society even more. By 1960, more than 6,000 people lived in 16 institutions.

♥ *People with a developmental disability are valued neighbours, respected co-workers and dear friends...* ♥

As scientific knowledge changed, so did attitudes towards people with disabilities. By the 1960s, the community living movement focused on the right of people of all abilities to live in their local communities and have the same opportunities as everyone else. This is Safehaven's fundamental belief and the basis of our model of care.

When the Developmental Services Act went into effect on April 1, 1974, the Ministry of Community & Social Services took over from the Ministry of Health, the care of approximately 8,000 residents living in Ontario's institutions. Over the next 12 years, community-based service grew rapidly and the transformation began. Over 25,000 people were supported in the community; five institutions were closed; annual spending on community services grew from \$10 million to \$181 million. By 1987, the Ontario government committed to closing the province's remaining facilities within

25 years. By September 2004, only three were left and closure was promised by 2009.

By closing Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia, Rideau Regional Centre in Smiths Falls and Southwestern Regional Centre in Chatham-Kent, the era of institutional living for people with a developmental disability has ended.

As Minister Madeleine Meilleur said: "It has been a long journey. And thanks to the cooperation and hard work of communities, agencies and families, nearly 1,000 people from these institutions are exploring new opportunities, gaining new skills, and living closer to loved ones. We recognize the advocates, families and friends, who showed us that people with a developmental disability could be valued neighbours, respected co-workers and dear friends...."

As we honour this historic milestone, let us remember that Ontario's journey is not over yet. Let us do what we can to help people of all abilities belong. ♥

Gifting Strategies IN TOUGH TIMES



Barry McNicol

These historic times are reducing cash donations to charities as the philanthropic public copes with their own tight cash flows and falling asset values. Yet there are gifting techniques to help Safehaven and yourself that do not involve cash.

Many people do not consider a charitable donation because they have questions and *do not know where to go to find the answers*. This article will give you a summary view of the issues, and in future articles, I will discuss each gifting technique in greater detail.

In considering a charitable gift, ask yourself:

- What assets are available to donate?
- Do I understand the tax benefits of gifting?
- What do I want to accomplish with the gift?
- Is the gift to be made while living and/or leave a legacy at death?

The financial instruments you can donate, besides cash, are life insurance, RRSPs/RRIFs, Charitable

Remainder Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities, investments such as stocks, bonds, GICs and mutual funds, gifts of tangible personal property such as jewellery, art, automobiles, furniture etc. While life insurance, stocks etc are easy to value, tangible personal property will need to be valued by an independent appraiser.

In gifting, you can obtain a tax credit now or at death. In some cases, tax can be avoided. Consider a stock that you paid \$2,000 for many years ago and now is worth \$10,000. Whether you sell the stock and donate the cash or donate the stock, you will receive a tax receipt for the donation. But selling the stock will trigger capital gain tax whereas donating the stock will not under new rules implemented in 2006. Also, issues you may want to consider avoiding are probate fees, creditor claims, estate litigation and donor confidentiality.

You may also be unsure when the best time to donate to Safehaven would be, now or on death. Different gifting techniques specifically address these scenarios. For many who are retired and are living off GICs, a Charitable Gift Annuity can help both Safehaven and yourself. That is, Safehaven will re-

ceive some cash from you now (and you will receive a tax donation for this) and the balance of the funds will be used to purchase an annuity, sometimes with the same income that you would have received on your GIC and with better tax consequences.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the numbers below or call Safehaven who will refer questions to us.

Barry McNicol, CIMA®, AIF® is Director of Endowments and Foundations for Blackmont Capital Inc. in Toronto. He holds an Certified Investment Manager Analyst designation and has completed the Endowment and Foundation Certificate program both taught in conjunction with the Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania and is also an Accredited Investment Fiduciary. He can be reached at 905-968-1901 or HYPERLINK "mailto:bmcnicol@blackmont.com" bmcnicol@blackmont.com. ♥

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safehaven Handbook Available

Do you use Safehaven's services? Do you know someone else who does? Do you want to know more about what we do?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you can request a copy of our NEW Safehaven Handbook: Information for Families & Visitors. It is available free of charge by calling Safehaven at 416-535-8525 or by email request at admin@safehaven.to ♥

Online Donations

In response to many of our donors, Safehaven is delighted to announce that as of May 15th, you will be able to donate online. Please go to our website (which is currently being updated) and look for the "Donate" button. Check back frequently, as any special fundraisers and third party events will be advertised. Go to:

www.safehaven.to

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Volunteers are very important to Safehaven – and always needed. They add a unique warmth and community involvement. They enhance the opportunities for each of our children.

At Safehaven, volunteers can:

Provide one-on-one stimulation to Safehaven residents;

Attend events as ambassadors to Safehaven or as escorts for our residents (with staff);

Provide help and expertise maintaining our homes;

Become members of committees or a member of our Board of Directors;

Donate goods or services that can be used as prizes at our fundraising events.

Email Addresses Wanted

Do you want to receive *The Voice* electronically?

Do you want to receive notices of upcoming events and other mailings from Safehaven electronically? If you answer "yes" to these questions, please forward your email address to us at **admin@safehaven.to** or call **416-535-8525**. Not only is it cost efficient, it's environmentally friendly!



Nicole McKinney

Volunteers are among Safehaven's most passionate supporters. Michael Sullivan of Immaculate Construction is a prime example. He first toured a Safehaven home because Safehaven Board Member Nicole McKinney is a friend. As often happens, when a visitor meets Safehaven employees and residents, they become involved – literally and emotionally. Michael toured our Glenaden and Timber Lane homes, putting together a list of all the repairs and improvements that had to be done. He then went ahead and completed the list, supplying all his labour free. Thank you, Michael. We could not do the work we do without caring volunteers like you!

Please call for more information and a volunteer application will be mailed to you.

Contact: 416-535-8525 Ext.225

or email sgudofsky@safehaven.to ❤️

UPCOMING EVENTS 2009

Saturday, August 1

AURORA JAZZ + FESTIVAL

Aurora Town Park

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 25

TODD BAYLIS MEMORIAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Kleinburg Golf & Country Club

9:30 a.m. registration

\$150 per person

Includes lunch, dinner, cart, welcome gift, prizes, silent auction

Friday, October 2

CIBC/STAR ONE CHARITY

GOLF TOURNAMENT

SPECIAL GUEST:

Hockey Legend JOHNNY BOWER

The Club at Bond Head

\$1,000 foursome/\$250 pp

7:30 a.m. registration; 8:30 a.m. tee off

Includes breakfast, buffet late lunch, cart, welcome gift, prizes, silent auction and live auction

Tuesday, October 20

SAFEHAVEN'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1173 Bloor Street West

6:30 p.m.

(Don't forget to return your membership applications.)

Friday, November 6

SAFEHAVEN'S 7TH GALA: A Night of Dreams

Bellvue Manor, Woodbridge

7:00 p.m.

Includes a 5 course dinner, bar, entertainment by MoTown Boys and St. Kitts Music, dancing, silent auction, raffle & door prizes, key prizes

Mark your calendars, check our website

www.safehaven.to

and watch your mail for more details.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO:

- Sponsor a hole at any of our golf tournaments;
- Make a reservation as a single, twosome or foursome for any of our golf tournaments;
- Donate prizes for the raffles and silent auctions at our events (goods, services, gift certificates) or;
 - Sponsor a Corporate Table at our Gala,

Please call Susan at 416-535-8525 x.225 or email

sgudofsky@safehaven.to

Donor Card / Holiday Card Program



Did you know that Safehaven has beautiful cards that we will send out on your behalf to celebrate life cycle events?

For a minimum of \$10.00 per card, we will send a card personally inscribed with your message to mark:

- **birthdays**
- **anniversaries**
- **weddings**
- **graduations**
- **deaths**
- **special days of any kind**



Send a Holiday Card from Safehaven. Give us your list and we will send a card to each person on it, acknowledging that a donation has been made in their honour.

The Donor Card Program provides a meaningful way to mark important events in your life and in the lives of your loved ones. All it takes is a phone call, email or fax to Safehaven. Cheques, cash, Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

A special thank you to **Lil Archinoff**, **Ricky & Harold Baker**, **Rhoda Buckspan**, **CIBC World Markets Equity & Structured Products**, **Anne Clune**, **Maria DaSilva & Ralph D'Amario**, **Elliott and Hughes**, **Lillian & Marvin Goldman**, **Barry Lash**, and **Sandra Rotholc-King & Jonathan King** for supporting Safehaven's Holiday Card Program.

With deepest gratitude, we thank Safehaven families - **Frank & Sharon Wice**, **Angela Konstantelos**, **Ann & Larry LeBlanc** and **Kalpanna & Jagadish Mandi** - for requesting donations to Safehaven in memory of their loved ones. At a time of personal sorrow and loss, this has made a huge difference in the lives of our children who have multiple disabilities and complex medical needs. Thank you for being the heart of our Safehaven family.

The Event Year in review

Three Golf Tournaments...



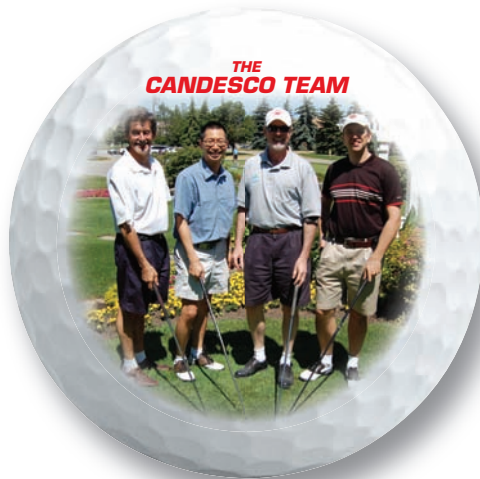
And they're off!

Or Hadash Charity Golf Tournament

We could not have asked for more perfect weather for a golf tournament than on the date of Or Hadash's Charity Golf Tournament. For the

fourth year in a row, Safehaven was named the charitable partner of Or Hadash Synagogue, a Jewish congregation serving the community of northern York region.

The golf committee made up of **Mark Schwartz** (chair), **Bonnie Schwartz**, **Sara Bates** and **Ron Posner** and the volunteers ensured the success of the day. Thank you for all your hard work and for your dedication to Safehaven children and their families.



With regret, Or Hadash has decided not to hold a golf tournament this year. We thank Or Hadash for adopting Safehaven as their charity of choice, for supporting us with such enthusiasm, and we look forward to participating in 2010 and seeing our friends from Or Hadash at our AGM and Gala.

For Safehaven golfers, there are still two chances to golf and support Safehaven. Please join us at the CIBC/Star One Charity Golf Tournament or the Todd Baylis Memorial Golf Tournament.

Todd Baylis Memorial Golf Tournament

At the end of September, a sold out golf tournament honoured the memory of Todd Baylis, a young police officer killed in the line of duty. This was the eleventh year of a remarkable partnership with Metro Police. Long a favourite with Safehaven golfers, the Todd Baylis Memorial Golf Tournament would not be possible without the dedication of the police team, **Dana Baker** and **John Lajeunesse**. Thank you for being so generous with your time and talents.

*Safehaven was also honoured to receive a huge donation of \$15,000 from **Claire Andrews**, representing the **Police Community Partnership, 12 Division**. This amazing group of volunteers raises money through bingo games held every month, using the proceeds to better the lives of people in their community. Thank you for your commitment to Safehaven families!*

CIBC/Star One Charity Golf Tournament

The golfers who came out to the CIBC/Star One Charity Golf Tournament were bowled over by the

new venue, The Club at Bond Head. The first class golf course and clubhouse lived up to its billing! If you have never been there, please join us this year. It is a golfer's paradise.



As an added bonus, HOCKEY GREAT JOHNNY BOWER will be joining us for the day and is eager to meet all of us. Because of the efforts of **Paul Cristini**, former Catherine Zoe Whittaker Award winner and Financial Advisor at the Lawrence and Keele CIBC branch and the support of **Mary Warwick**, Associate Vice-President, Yorkdale District, CIBC Retail Markets and **Isaac Tamssot**, Investment Specialist, CIBC Investor Services Inc., Safehaven has been given almost \$100,000 from the golf tournaments.

Safehaven also owes a special thank you to **Ervil DiGiusto** at **Star One Promotions** for donating hockey and baseball tickets that are used as raffle prizes. They always generate a lot of excitement.

Save the date: **Friday, October 2nd** at 7:30 a.m. for registration. Tee off will be at 8:30 and remember: **Johnny Bower** will be joining us.

And a Gala...

Safehaven's 6th Gala:

Special Children, Special People: A Special Evening

Indeed it was a special evening on November 7th when 800 guests came to celebrate with Safehaven. It would be hard to say what was "most special". The 5 course meal was fabulous.



Francisco & Elmarie from Wm. G. Pollock Dance Studio.

Entertainment by the **MoTown Boys** and **St. Kitts Music** had guests dancing until after 1 a.m. The dance demonstration by **Francisco** and **Elmarie** from **Wm. G. Pollock Dance Studio** wowed the crowd, and the presentation of key prizes was very exciting!

Safehaven owes a special thank you to **Tony Zingaro** and the Woodbridge community for their incredible support. The Gala Committee made up of **Stacey Celio, Stephanie Grattan, Ida Greco, Al Grossi, Annette Haley, Marta Hargrove, Beth McIlroy, Liz Pomeroy, John Rossetti, Linda**



GALA COMMITTEE 2008:

*Back row (L to R) Jim Stone, Stephanie Grattan, Linda Wright
Front row (L to R) Tony Zingaro, Beth McIlroy, Susan Gudofsky,
Liz Pomeroy, Ida Greco, Marta Hargrove
(Absent) Stacey Celio, Al Grossi, Annette Haley, John Rossetti*

Wright and Tony Zingaro were amazing, recruiting gifts and guests and spreading good will. The committee met monthly and was a never ending source of energy and ideas. Thank you so much.



Kids' Horizons

AIR CANADA 

Sales of keys were brisk because of our generous key sponsors of Travel

Three Ways. A special thank you to **Air Canada/Kids' Horizons** for our major prize of the evening: 2 hospitality tickets to anywhere Air Canada flies in North America, including sun destinations like Hawaii. Air Canada has been Safehaven's "donor angel" for the past five years. Their commitment to giving back to the community by supporting

Continued on page 22...



The Gala Silent Auction table attracted lots of attention.

charities that make a difference in the lives of young Canadians has had a huge impact on the success of Safehaven's major fundraiser, our Gala.

We would also like to thank **VIA Rail Canada** for another key prize, offering first class rail travel from Toronto to Quebec City and back as well as **Greyhound Canada Transportation Group** for two tickets anywhere in the Greyhound Canada system. When our three key prize winners pick their destinations this year, we know they will think of Safehaven and our generous donors!

The incredible success of a major event like our Gala is due to our friends who go above and

beyond the call of duty. A special thank you to:
Mario Bartelli of Variation Music.com;
Joe Bianchi of Platinum Music & Entertainment;
Alvara Cappelli of The Big Canoli;
Mike Feld of Most Excellent Productions;
Martin Foy, Keith Clarridge and Adam Lamb of MFM Design & Printing;
John Fortuna of Seacore Seafood;
Robert Marra of Bellvue Manor;
The MoTown Boys and St. Kitts Music;
Safehaven volunteers who hosted our guests;
Jim Stone from Stone Events.

Safehaven's 6th Gala: Special Children, Special People, A Special Evening raised an incredible \$80,000, an accomplishment made possible by the contributions of our families and guests, suppliers and staff. It was an outstanding evening. Please join us and be part of next year's magic. ❤️

Save the date:
Friday, November 6th for the
7th Safehaven Gala: A Night of Dreams
 For more information
 email sgudofsky@safehaven.to

List of Donors 2008

We would like to thank all those who chose Safehaven to acknowledge special occasions, who supported our events, who donated gifts and services as prizes at our fundraisers, and who made corporate and individual donations to enhance the lives of our families who have children with multiple disabilities and complex medical needs. You are making a huge difference.

Tax receipts are issued at the end of each calendar year. We apologize for anyone inadvertently omitted from the list!

- 401 Richmond Ltd.
- A & A King Family Foundation
- A Ticket to Ride Travel
- Ace Automatic Fire Sprinklers Co. Inc.
- Acoustic Rain Music
- Mike Adams
- Air Canada/Kids' Horizons
- Alice & Murray Maitland Foundation
- Allan Rug Co. Ltd.
- Sharon Alton
- Ann & Uppi Anand
- Kate & Justin Anderson
- Andrew Peller Limited
- Debi & Glenn Archinoff
- Lil Archinoff
- AXA Insurance/Donations Committee
- Solos Bachlis
- Ricky & Harold Baker
- Maria & Yamandu Balay
- Mario Bartelli, Variation Music.com
- Sarah & Len Bates
- Gigi & Tom Baxter
- Beaverton & District Conservation Club
- Edith & Maurice Bellman
- Ben & Hilda Katz Charitable Fndn.
- Chris Bensley
- Neysa & Harry Berall
- Jim Berry
- Bertha Lands Inc
- Better Day Alliance Foundation
- Jacquelyn Betts
- Karen Binions
- Blackmont Capital
- Blooddale Baseball League
- Howard Borden
- Barbara Bowen
- Marcia Brassel
- Isabel Brazier
- Brian Tomaso Enterprises
- Seni Brisimitzis
- Doreen & Jeffrey Britton
- Carol Brooks
- Heidi Brooks & Laurie Hart
- Linda & Hugh Brown
- Barbara & Dr. Martin Buckspan
- Cindy & Gary Buckspan
- David & Rhonda Buckspan
- Rhoda & Arthur Buckspan
- Linda & Bob Burrows
- Marian & Brian Burrows
- Courtenay Bygrave
- Norma & Tony Cavacella
- Claudia & Franco Calderaro
- Can. Fed. of Univ. Women, Aurora/Newmarket
- Canadian Aesthetic Academy
- Canadian National Exhibition
- Candesco Corporation
- Sylvia Caplan
- Rose Cappe
- Cardinal Golf Club
- Carlton Cards
- Stacey & Adrian Celio
- CG Group
- Norma Chambers
- Dorothy Chan & Simon Tse
- Norma & Jim Charboneau
- CHFI 98.1
- Eileen Chudnovsky
- CIBC World Markets Children's Miracle Fndn.
- CIBC World Markets, Equity & Structured Prod.
- Classic Fireplace & Gourmet Grills Inc.
- Angela Clearaglia
- Wendy Cleo
- Vanessa & Gary Clinker
- Anne G. Clune
- Patty Clune
- CN Tower
- Marjorie Cochrane
- Constantine Hygiene

- Ron Corbeil
- Tracy & Victor Correia
- Mr. & Mrs. Rod Couch
- Craigleith Ski Club
- Jean Crawford
- D. D'Alessandro
- Katalin Z. D'Onofrio
- Lina & Enzo D'Onofrio
- Dan Mac Plumbing & Drain Services Ltd.
- James Darroch
- Maria DaSilva & Ralph D'amarao
- Davenport-Campbell Company Ltd.
- Judith L. Davies
- Alicia Davis
- Day Dreams Spa
- Ghada Dayfallah & Sobhi (Sam) Ellassaad
- Deedee Harley Davidson Canada
- Delta Chelsea Inn
- Suzanne Denis
- Mary & Wayne Dishart
- Moneet Dogra
- Dolce Publishing Inc.
- Elizabeth & Sotirios Doukas
- Dyson/Bruce/Studio
- Eaglebay Financial Corporation
- Ego Hair Studio
- Elemental Controls Ltd.
- Eleventh Floor Apparel Ltd.
- Elliott Family Care Ltd.
- Elliott & Hills
- Sharon & Peter Ellis
- EMI Music
- Epstein Cole LLP
- Extreme Fitness
- F.K. Morrow Foundation
- Silvana & Frank Faieta
- Mike Feld, Most Excellent Productions
- Risa & Ed Feldman
- Laurie Fendley
- Joe Files
- Fine Jewellery by Colette
- Fontana Gardens
- Cheryl & Doug Ford
- Forest Hill Valet
- Four Seasons Hotels Limited
- Donna& Martin Foy
- Lynda & Stephen Franklin
- Catherine Fraser-Hickey
- Frances & Paul Fraumeni
- Freshwave Family Chiropractic Centre
- Valerie & Alban Frigault
- Joe Gambino
- Ganz Bros.
- Reva & David Garber
- Maria & Nick Georgas
- Gingko Tree Wellness
- Anne & Nathan Goldman
- Lillian & Marvin Goldman
- Sara & Stan Goldstein
- Penny & Tom Golias
- Allan Goodman
- Beverley & Harvey Gordon
- Ethel Gordon & Bill Bates
- Trudy Gorzny
- Greg Grandbois
- John Grant
- Stephanie & Keith Grattan
- Ginger Gric
- Green-Pro Lawn Maintenance
- Rosalie & Jim Gregory
- Greyhound Canada Transportation Corp.
- Noula & Theo Grigoriadis
- Peter Grosdanis
- Deborah Ground & James Canning
- Pearl Gryfe
- Susan & Irwin Gudofsky
- Terry Gudofsky & Dorey Neiss
- Susan & Irving Gurau
- H.Halpern Esq.
- Haggard Canada Co.
- Annette Haley & Frank Atkinson
- May Hamlett
- John Hampton
- David Harding
- Marta Hargrove & Marc Whitham
- Jennifer Harris
- Dianne & Jos Hays
- High Value Consultants
- Dianne & Peter Highfield
- Leslie & Blaine Hobson
- Hockey Hall of Fame
- Marie & Chris Hodgson
- Phil Bittenbinder Home Renovations & Repairs
- Peggy Hornell
- Anna & Valentin Hortiguela
- Janet & Ron Howes
- Frances (Nancy) Howey
- Pauline A. Hughes
- Valerie & Tony Hull
- Humber Valley United Church Women
- Veronica Humphrey
- Dionna Husbands
- Imagemakers International Inc.
- Industrial Alliance Ins. & Fin. Serv.
- Inner Phase Electric
- Inspirational Lifestyles
- Interior Care
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 353
- David Israelson
- Martha James
- Jamieson Vitamins
- JB Creative Designs
- Jen van der Vecht Photography
- Jodal Health Care
- Joe's No Frills
- Tim Jones
- Shahiroz Juma
- Gwendolynne & John Kane
- Marcia & Aris Kaplanis
- Karen McClintock Jewellery
- Urszula & Witod Kazmierksi
- Deborah Kennedy
- Sylvia Kenyon
- Joan L. & Joseph Kerr
- Bernice Kerzner
- Kiddiesworld of Furniture
- Kids Bunk House
- David Kim-Cragg
- Kimberly Clark Inc.
- Jayne Kirkaldy
- Frank Klees
- Katy & Barry Koepke
- Sara Koepke
- Theodoros & Frosso Koitsopoulos
- Konica Minolta Business Solutions
- Bessy & Jim Konstantellos
- Steve Konstantelos
- Olja Lavriv
- Ann & Larry LeBlanc
- Robin LeBlanc
- Judy Lefebvre
- Connie Leggett
- Dora & Harry Legourdas
- Jean G. & Winston Legrand
- Leon's Furniture Ltd.
- Liberty Grand Entertainment Grp.
- Mitchell Linds
- Judith Logan Junop & David Junop
- Richard Lopes
- Maxine Lucatch
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- Linda MacDonald
- Dorothy MacPherson
- Enzo Malerba
- Robert Marra, Bellvue Manor
- Class of 2010 Medicine
- Cathy & Frank Maltese
- Mary & Dimitrios Mamas
- Anna Maria & Domenic Manieri
- Brian & Mary Beth Marshall
- Martha's Bed and Breakfast
- Lisa Masters
- Despina & Peter Mastrokalos
- Karen McGillivray
- Nicole McKinney
- Janesse McPhillips
- Medigas
- Medisys Health Group LP
- Elaine & Henry Melnick
- Mercer Health & Benefits
- Mary Metzger
- MFM Graphic Design & Printing
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- Virginia Molyneux
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- Fern Mozersky
- Mark Mueller
- Muskies Canada
- Myra Nelson
- Catherine & Frederick Netherton
- Smile & Timothy Ng
- John A. Nimmo
- Nine Dots Marketing (1992) Inc.
- Frieda & Gus Ntakos
- OMD Canada
- Or Hadash Synagogue
- Louise & Paul Oram
- Ruth Orbst
- Origo Designs/Medalion Industries
- Karen Oser
- Dimitra Pallas
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