Newsletter Changes

Starting this month, OPACC will be sending our newsletter on a monthly basis, rather than quarterly as before. We hope that in this way our members can be kept better informed and up-to-date faster on important news and events of interest.

Website News

A reminder to please check OPACC’s website at http://www.opacc.org for the latest breaking news items. Keep updated in between newsletters by regularly checking our site! On our News page, we have added an Organizational News section with updates from our member organizations on their special programs and events, as well as a General News section with breaking headlines from around the world of interest specifically to the childhood cancer community.

We have also added a form on our Programs page for you to submit feedback, suggestions, and testimonials on our Parent Liaison program. Your thoughts are important to us!

If you have a childhood cancer journey story and/or photos that you would like to see published in future issues of OPACC’s newsletter and/or our website, please submit them via the form on our Sharing Hope page or via email at info@opacc.org

News Bits

- OPACC is proud to now be a member organization of the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations (ICCCPO). ICCCPO is an umbrella organization representing parent organizations who help families of children with cancer around the world. You can read more information on their website: http://www.icccpo.org
News Bits, con’t.

- OPACC is pleased to announce a new member organization: Help a Child Smile. This organization serves families from a broad geographical area whose child is being treated for cancer at McMaster Children’s Hospital. They provide family events year-round to bring some joy into the lives of children with cancer. Please see their website for more information: [http://www.helpachildsmile.com](http://www.helpachildsmile.com)

- If you or someone you know has ever considered becoming a support group leader or facilitator, either in an existing or new support group, please let us know via email at info@opacc.org and keep posted for news on our upcoming Parent Facilitator Training session which will be run in Toronto this spring in conjunction with Lainie’s Angels and the Hospital for Sick Children.

- A new series of co-facilitated parent support group meetings at Sick Kids are being currently planned for the Spring. Please keep posted for more details as they become available!

- In November, OPACC was proudly represented once again at the annual POGO Symposium in Toronto. OPACC sent representatives to the event, had an exhibitor’s table, and presented an abstract with a poster. You can see photos from the event on our Special Events news section here: [http://www.opacc.org/news/?p=149](http://www.opacc.org/news/?p=149)

- Swish for the Cure: This is a fully sponsored, fun, free, and fantastic one-day event in Toronto open to 50 children with cancer and their siblings. The 6th annual event this year will be held on February 4th. Thanks to Elite Basketball Camp for hosting this event, and we are looking forward to next year! See their website for more information: [http://www.swishforthecure.com](http://www.swishforthecure.com)

- Mom’s Night Out: For Moms of Children with Paediatric Brain Tumours

  Friday, February 24, 2012 • 7pm -10pm in Brampton (Wellspring Chinguacousy, 5 Inspiration Way)

  This will be a relaxing evening with pampering, soothing music, and delicious food for moms who know all about caring for a child with a paediatric brain tumour. We all come from different backgrounds and our journeys differ. One thing is certain: we can be a source of encouragement and comfort to each other. Please RSVP by February 10 to Karen Haas at kareenhaas@rogers.com or 905 789-9485.
Parent Liaison Update

Best wishes to everyone for 2012 – now that the holiday season is behind us, I am looking ahead to all that the New Year has to offer.

As always, I am to be found at clinic on most Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. For those of you who don’t know, I am always glad to touch base and let families know about what is currently happening in and outside of the hospital. Or if it’s a quiet cup of coffee or tea you prefer, please let me join you, any time!

OPACC is continuing to host a weekly drop-in for parents every Tuesday evening in room 8704 from 6:30 -8:30 pm. Please stop by and say hi, pick up some refreshments or information (or laundry detergent!). Whether you’re on 8A, 8B, 7E, off service, at day hospital or just in the area, you are always welcome!

Whether it’s to pick up a Courage Lion, a Health Record planner, or to have a friendly conversation, I look forward to speaking with all of you.

For those who are participating in Swish for the Cure, Elite Basketball Camp’s amazing day on Feb 4, it will be terrific to see you and your families in person. I look forward to your pictures, your stories and to seeing all of you next time…

For those who didn’t know about this amazing day, or the others I advertise, please feel free to stop by and chat, or email, text or call. I’d love to make sure that you and your family know about every opportunity that comes up. And I know that the organizers are always thrilled to have your family’s participation.

And please consider submitting some of your feedback to OPACC – we love to hear from you!
Thanks,
Susan 😊
OPACC Board of Directors

Dave Munro - President and Chair
Barbara Johnson - Director
Helen Robertson - Director
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Sarai Porretta – Administrative Coordinator/Recording Secretary

James Thomson - Treasurer
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Stathi Afendoulis - Director
Susan Kuczynski - Parent Liaison (non-voting)

Contact Information:

Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer
524 Bayfield Street North
P.O. Box 20005
Barrie, ON L4M 5E9

Tel: (705) 828-7965
Email: info@opacc.org
Web: http://www.opacc.org

Find us on Facebook here: https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3057645252
Find us on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/#!/OpaccOrg

OPACC Educates, Advocates, Supports and Enables families of children with cancer

OPACC currently receives no government funding and all funding for the development of our programs, services and special events comes from your generous donations. Your donation is greatly appreciated! You can easily make a fast, secure donation through our Canada Helps page: http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s92379

The diagnosis of a childhood cancer affects the whole family. OPACC is helping families cope with that diagnosis and is working to expand the Parent Liaison role throughout the province.

Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation - Canada’s only national charity devoted to fighting childhood cancer

Childhood Cancer Canada - Childhood Cancer Canada is a national, volunteer governed, charitable organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with cancer and their families

Lainie’s Angels - Hope, Honesty, Compassion, and Support for the needs of the family with a child who has cancer

Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), one of Canada’s leading grantmaking foundations, is an agency of the Government of Ontario. The OTF is a catalyst that enables Ontarians to work together to enhance the quality of life in their communities.