

THE LAPGHAN Project By Rebecca Simkin

A group of senior residents, community members and volunteers at BRCD have been very busy since May of 2005. They have been knitting and crocheting up a storm making afghans and lapghans for each of the new residents who would be moving into the new home in Barrie. That's 64 afghans and 64 lapghans; quite an undertaking!

Moving to a new place, especially a long-term care home, can be a difficult experience. This group wanted to ease the transition by providing some home made comfort.



Lapghans- fun to make, and receive.

They used small pieces of leftover wool that were donated, and even used wool from unfinished items. It was a challenge, but they came up with some beautiful designs. As you can see on this page, even in black and white they look great. To see colour examples, go to: www.bobrumball.org/BRCD/Lapghans.html

"What's a lapghan?" you might be wondering. It's a small afghan for your lap.

Interesting facts about this project:

- Each afghan took about 60 hours to make, and each lapghan took about 50 hours to make. Altogether that's a total of 7040 hours or 294 days!
- Altogether the afghans and lapghans used about 480 pounds of yarn!
- It would have cost about \$6,427.86 to buy all of the yarn at a sale price!

Soon after the new home opened, some of the group members went to deliver the finished afghans to the new residents. They laid out their afghans on long tables in the room called the Chalet. The sight was quite impressive. The residents went around and made their selections. Considering the wonderful selection, it's not surprising they had a hard time choosing.

Now that their job was done, the group wondered what to do next. They decided to do some fundraising by creating and selling scarves, slippers and mittens.

If you have wool or unfinished knitting projects to donate, contact our fundraising department. If you would like to join this merry group of knitters and crocheters, contact our volunteer department. If you would like to buy some of their creations, go to: www.bobrumball.org/BRFD/products.html



Home made comfort.

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STAFF Corner

SPECIAL EVENTS

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

Our second annual ASL Coffee and Tea Break was held on Wednesday February 14th, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. As it coincided with Valentine's Day, Classroom #2 was decorated accordingly. Valentine's crossword puzzles, trivia quizzes, ASL word find and the "Guessing Game" provided staff with a little entertainment during their break. All attendees received a gift; the women received a carnation and the men received chocolate.

Our next events will be the Staff Appreciation BBQ on Thursday, May 3rd, followed by "Signing Day" on Tuesday, May 29th.

Happy Hands Preschool Registration **NOW OPEN!**

Spaces available for children ages 2 1/2 to 5 who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing or hearing with a Deaf family member, or have special needs. Limited spaces are also available for hearing children from the community.

Contact Kim Reid at (416) 449-8859 (TTY) or through Bell Relay at 1 800 855-0511 or email kreid@bobrumball.org

BENEFITS

Based on the results of the employee survey our first Wellness Lunch Hour Seminar topic was "Humour & Laughter" which took place in March. April's topic will be "Balance Work and Personal Life" and May's topic is "Time Management."

HEALTH & SAFETY

Almost 100 staff attended one of the four, three-hour Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS) Workshops held on January 16th and 24th. A fifth WHMIS workshop was held on Saturday, March 24th. The workshop facilitator was Melanie Gruneir from Ontario Safety Association for Community & Healthcare (OSACH). The workshops' focus was identifying hazardous materials, including consumer products, the appropriate follow-up action(s), roles and responsibilities, storage, labeling and personal protective equipment. Staff also received training on how to identify, review and make sense of Material

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please join me in welcoming the following new staff:

Gerald Premachandran,
Environmental Services

Inamullah Beg,
Environmental Services

Robert Watson,
Manager of Finance

Welcome back Brian Buott,
Dietary Services

We will miss departing staff:
Ross Diamond,
Manager of Finance

Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Staff participation was excellent, which is essential, as we all play an important role in workplace safety. All participants will receive an OSACH Certificate of Participation. Thank you and congratulations to all the participants.

Rhonda Waters
Manager, Human Resources

KEEPING Healthy KEEPING Healthy KEEPING Healthy KEEPING Healthy KEEPING Healthy KEEPING Healthy KEEPING Healthy KEEPING Healthy

KEEPING Healthy

By Cathy McKibbin

Germes are everywhere. They can be found both in predictable and in unexpected places. Sometimes germes are unavoidable, but individuals can take precautions in order to prevent or manage their transmission. The following are common sources of harmful bacteria:

- Money
- Pens (provided at bank counters, for example)
- Elevator buttons and public phones (especially located in hospitals or doctors offices)
- Handrails in public places such as buses and subways
- Gym equipment
- Seats such as those located in movie theatres.

You might be surprised to know that recent studies have also shown two other major sources of serious contamination. The first is the supermarket shopping cart. These carts are exposed to the drippings of poultry and meat, not to mention the number of ill individuals who have touched the handle, which is rarely cleaned. Some shopping carts were found to have more harmful bacteria than public washrooms! The second is women's purses, as well as briefcases and knapsacks. These items can pick up and transfer germes from the floor to a desk, a dining room table, or even a kitchen counter.

Use disinfectant wipes to clean surfaces before touching them. If touching a contaminated surface is unavoidable, wash your hands as soon as possible and carry a hand sanitizer with you. Keep you and your family safe!



VOLUNTEERS Front & Centre!

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Volunteer Canada designates one week in April as National Volunteer Week. This time is set aside to formally recognize the efforts of volunteers throughout the country. Volunteers work with neighbors, friends, family members and strangers to make outstanding contributions to their communities throughout the year. They inspire the people they help and inspire others to serve.

Volunteers are people from all walks of life, all ages and stages. What they have in common is the desire to make a difference in their community – and in their own lives – by giving of their time and expertise.

Volunteers are involved in virtually every aspect of society including health, education, social services, youth, sports and recreation, culture, the arts and the environment. Some volunteers give just one hour of time each week; others devote many hours. Volunteers are involved in one-time events as well as ongoing commitments. Some choose to volunteer out in the community whereas others are virtual volunteers and do their volunteering from the comfort of home.

Whatever volunteers choose to do, it is important to recognize their contributions.

Contact Michelle Grossman at (416) 449-9651 ext. 156, or e-mail mgrossman@bobrumball.org

This year the theme of our Volunteer Week is “Heroes Amongst Us.” The Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf will be hosting a reception to recognize our “Heroes”. If you are an active volunteer in one of our programs, please join us on Tuesday, April 17th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at The Manor.

Interested in Volunteering?
Attend one of our
Volunteer Information Sessions:

Monday April 16th 10:30 am
Tuesday April 17th 6:00 pm
Monday May 7th 10:30 am
Tuesday May 8th 6:00 pm
Monday June 11th 10:30 am
Tuesday June 12th 6:00 pm

**Please call to confirm
dates & times

SIGN LANGUAGE Programs

SIGN OUT!

SUMMER DAY CAMP
JULY 2-6 & 9-13, 2007

If there ever was a day camp to please both parents and kids, this is it. Campers are introduced to the Deaf experience by learning the basics of American Sign Language and awareness through structured lessons, games, activities, special guests, exercise, music, drama, arts & crafts and free play. Each day campers will participate in an ASL class. Afterwards they will be able to practice what they learned while they play. Parents will be eager to see what new signs campers bring

home each evening! For children ages 6-12. Registration is now open. Pick up a form on the web at www.bobrumball.org



Book off your vacation time now!
Summer 2007 Adult ASL
Immersion Camp
Ontario Camp of the Deaf
Parry Sound, Ontario
AUGUST 12-17, 2007
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!

For more information on either of these programs please contact Susan at: Tel: (416) 449-9651 ext. 137, E-mail: sls@bobrumball.org

Relax on the beach, take a hike through the woods, plunge into the lake off the on-water trampoline, all in between fun and engaging sign language classes during this complete immersion experience.

This camp is a fabulous opportunity for adult signers of beginner, intermediate and advanced levels to participate in a total American Sign Language environment. Through events and participant interaction you will experience ASL in motion. This is an experience you won't want to miss!

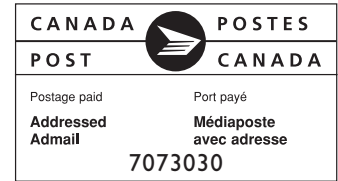
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FUNDRAISING Matters

This year The Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf is participating in the Toronto Challenge Walk/Run on Sunday June 10th at 9:30am at Metro Hall. We need walkers or runners who are willing to participate in this event and collect pledges on our behalf.

All of the money our walkers/runners collect will go directly to support the Centre and services for the Deaf. We will issue tax receipts for the amount of \$10 and above.

You can walk 1km or 5km, or run 5km. What ever you can manage.



Get race kit goodies, a free BBQ lunch and have a good time. Walkers from the BRCD can walk together and carry a banner. We already have participants, but the larger the group, the better.

For more information, visit the Toronto Challenge Website at: www.toronto.ca/challenge/index.html.



You can get registration /pledge forms there as well, or contact our fundraising office.

If you collect \$120 worth of sponsors, we'll be happy to pay your entry fee (\$20 for adults, \$10 for kids under 14 years old and seniors) if you return your forms to the fundraising office by June 1st. We will register everyone at one time.

If you are unable to participate, you can always sponsor someone who is, or volunteer to help.

Thank you in advance
for your support!

Contact Information:

Rebecca Simkin,
Fundraising Coordinator
(416) 449-9651 ext. 132
e-mail at: rsimkin@bobrumball.org