



# The HOT Wire

Volume 4

Fall / Winter 2007



## From the Desk of the ED – Cindy Accardi

Dear HOT Wire Readers:



Each year the fall marks a beginning for Rotary Cheshire. With the Annual General Meeting in September the Board of Directors renews its commitment to governance and setting the agenda for the coming months.

This year's beginning brings the re-joining of Rotary Cheshire and the Canadian Helen Keller Centre. While each agency will continue to operate under its own business numbers, resources will be combined to provide an increased level of efficiency to various operational processes.

From a governance perspective Rotary Cheshire will focus on strategic growth to parallel the current climate of transformation and expansion in the Intervenor Services sector. This is exciting work that will ultimately pave the way to Rotary Cheshire's future.

On a lighter note, Rotary Cheshire will host its annual holiday get together on December 19 from 5 to 7 pm for clients of our programs, staff, the board, friends and supporters.

The Deafblind Coalition of Ontario (DBCO) will host the second annual training symposium for Intervenorers in February 2008 at the Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville. As a member of DBCO, Rotary Cheshire has an active role in the planning of the symposium by sitting on the steering committee. It is sure to be an informative and energizing opportunity for Intervenorers from the acquired and congenital fields to come together and broaden their skills and knowledge.

Until the next edition of the HOT Wire, best wishes for a happy holiday season and new year.

*Cindy*

## Consumer Profile - Wilfred Grieve



Hi, I was born in Peterborough and went to school there. I also attended the Belleville School for the Deaf, did home study mathematics and then in 1965 I went to night school for grades 7 & 8. In 1966 I graduated grade 8 from Jesse Ketchum public school in Toronto.

I took some adult education programs and home study from a school in Los Angeles until 1974 and also some art courses in Toronto.

For 25 ½ years I worked in the dietary section of a hospital and then I retired from work.

After retiring I took some courses from cnib literacy.

In June 1992 I moved into an apartment at RCA – living independently in my own place for the first time.

From the Canadian Helen Keller Centre I took classes learning how to clean and cook. I also took computer classes.

I have Usher's Syndrome and am a member of the Ontario Usher Syndrome Association. I am also a member of the Deaf-Blind Association of Toronto (DBAT) and the Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind (CNSDB).

In the summer I enjoy spending time at my cottage.

## Board Profile – Betty-Jean Reid

Hello all! I am new to the RCH Board this year. I have been on the CHKC board for a number of years and I am very pleased to now join RCH.



I worked in the dental business for many years before deciding on a career change and was very fortunate to discover the world of intervention. I became a college student at 40 years of age! I graduated from the Intervenor Program (Dean's Medal, Governor General Award for 1995) and worked in the field for RCA, ILRDBO and the Durham District School Board

I have been the Intervenor Program Coordinator and a professor at George Brown College since 1999. I try to volunteer in the community at DBAT and other events as much as possible when time allows. I am also on the Board of CDBRA Ontario.

I volunteered with Victim Services in Caledon for many years. I am involved in several committees at the college and in the field. One committee is with the Deafblind Coalition of Ontario, planning for an intervenor training symposium for early 2008. I am very excited at the growth in the profession of intervention. More services and more opportunities for training are very positive signs!

I have lived in Bolton for almost 20 years and 2 years ago acquired a "roommate". Alex is a pastry chef and teaches at a high school in Ajax. (His specialty is wedding cakes, just in case you need one) We seem to spend a lot of time commuting to work! We enjoy travel and gardening, cooking (me) and wine making (him).

My thanks to the organization and the Board for the opportunity to be involved with RCH and the wonderful services they offer.

### **Intervenor Profile – Jennifer Robbins**



Hi, my name is Jennifer Robbins and I work as a part time intervenor at Rotary Cheshire Homes. I started out working at RCH in 1996 as the Executive Assistant after I graduated from Seneca College, Social Service Worker program. In 2001 I became the full time Housing Manager, and later also started working part-time as an intervenor in the Outreach program in 2006.

I have had many opportunities working at RCH both as an intervenor and as the Housing Manager, but the most exciting thing I have ever done as an intervenor is attend the 14<sup>th</sup> International Deafblind Conference in Perth Australia, this past September. This was a wonderful and exciting opportunity, which allowed me to meet delegates from around the world, including many consumers, other intervenors and service providers.

In addition to my work at RCH, I also sit on the volunteer Board of Directors for the Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind (CNSDB) as the Treasurer, and have since 2002. I enjoy all my connections to the Deaf-Blind community, especially working for RCH. I find my part-time job as an intervenor a great opportunity to learn new and valuable things everyday, and am very grateful for the skills and knowledge I have gained

over the years. In addition to all of my work in this field, most importantly I am also a mom of 2 beautiful daughters aged 13 and 6 years old who keep me very busy.

## **14<sup>th</sup> International Dbl Conference, Perth Australia - September 2007**

The job of an intervenor can be very interesting, exciting, informative, and can bring you to various activities and locations. Attending the 14<sup>th</sup> International Dbl Conference in Perth Australia September 24, 30<sup>th</sup> 2007, was by far the most exciting opportunity I have had as an intervenor yet. Thank you to Rotary Cheshire Homes who provided intervenor services for Lorne Marin, a Deaf-Blind consumer, to attend the conference and present two very successful workshops. Lorne raised enough funds through donations from the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons and several private donors to cover the costs of his travel to Perth.

The days at the conference were very long, busy, challenging and draining, however it was all very rewarding, and extremely exciting. The travel to Perth was 31 hours with two stopovers in Los Angeles and Sydney. During our stay in Australia we had the opportunity to travel around the city of Perth, which is very beautiful. We visited the Indian Ocean a few times in Fremantle, and a National Park to see Koala's. In addition, we had a seven hour stopover in Sydney, Australia on our way home making it possible for us to tour that city as well for a couple of hours, which was really exciting.

The conference was an excellent learning and networking experience, putting RCH on the international stage. There were over 400 delegates from several different countries such as the UK, Australia, Italy, Sweden, USA, and of course Canada. However, Lorne and myself were the only Canadians who represented the acquired population. In addition, to my job as an intervenor part-time, I am also the Housing Manager at RCH. While I was there, I was also able to make a very successful presentation on the services and apartments offered by RCH. I had people tell me how jealous they are that there is a place like RCA in Canada, and nothing else like it anywhere else in the world.

As a delegate at the conference I was very proud and honored to represent Canada and Rotary Cheshire Homes. Thanks again to RCH for providing the opportunity of a lifetime to a Deaf-Blind consumer, and to me as an intervenor.

## Up-coming Events

- December 1st – CHKC Workshop - Online Internet Security
- December 4th - OUSA Holiday Party
- December 12<sup>th</sup> - DBAT Holiday Party
- December 13<sup>th</sup> – Ontario Deaf-Blind Association Holiday Party
- December 19<sup>th</sup> - RCA Drop-In and Food Drive

For more information on the events please contact the agency/association directly.

## Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday and a Healthy 2008

ROTARY CHESHIRE HOMES INC.,  
101- 422 Willowdale Ave., Toronto, ON M2N 5B1 416-730-9501 voice 416-730-9187 TTY

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