

PARTNERS

Welcome to **PARTNERS**



Bill Innes,
NSM CCAC
Executive
Director

As we commence a new calendar year, I am reminded of the many challenges and opportunities we addressed during 2008 and are about to face during 2009 and ongoing.

One of the challenges and opportunities we will collectively face over the foreseeable future is being able to sustain the health and social systems we have come to depend upon during a time when those we are serving are steadily aging while at the same time 25% of the existing providers of health care are/or will be eligible for retirement within the next 5 years.

This is a very serious situation that will be partially met through all of us working together for the benefit of those we serve. We must be interdependent.

PARTNERS has been designed to assist in our efforts to work together. We trust you will find this issue informative and encourage you to contribute articles for future issues in the spirit of increasing our partnerships.

New Accessibility Resource Centre Assists Seniors, Service Clubs and Health Care Providers

The phone rings; "Good Morning, Accessibility Resource Centre".

An elderly voice on the other end opens the conversation by saying, "I'm not sure if you are the place I should be calling but I saw your story in the *FOCUS 50+* Magazine the other day and was wondering if you might be able to help me?"

"My wife had a car accident several years ago that resulted in problems with her left leg. Now that we are getting older, arthritis has settled into her joints and she is starting to have some problems going up and down the stairs. I am afraid that she is going to fall one of these days and break a hip or leg".

"My son told me that he saw a commercial on the television of a person using a stair lift to get up and down stairs. I think that may be just the thing my wife needs; I might even like it."

The gentleman proceeded to share that he and his wife have managed on their own for years, and do not want people coming in their home to help. They love their home and do not want to have to move, especially not into a nursing home.

He was assured that he had called the right place and that we could help him by assisting with making his home a safe and comfortable environment for both of them. We continued to talk and he then recognized that proper planning, financial involvement, contract work and careful consideration were all a part of the plan.

Suggestions that the ADP funding, administered through the Ontario March of Dimes, CMHC programs, etc., might provide financial relief were appreciated, and guidance with making application to both was valued.

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Visit the North Simcoe Muskoka Community Care Access Centre website at www.nsm.ccac-ont.ca

New Accessibility Resource Centre, Service Clubs and Health Care Providers

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This call is representative of many that have come into the Simcoe County Association for the Physically Disabled (S.C.A.P.D.) over the years – calls that prompted the idea to establish a formal center to support people who have undergone significant medical issues which have impacted their mobility, caused them to have much longer hospital stays than necessary, and sometimes resulted in having to leave their homes and go into Long-Term Care facilities. These issues affected their ability to do the things they normally did, in the way they always did them, and created much anguish and stress.

A new *Accessibility Resource Center* has been established for residents of Simcoe Muskoka; the goal of which is to enable seniors and others to remain in their own homes as they recover from illness or as they age.



This project, funded by the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN), targets seniors in the region, and is sponsored by S.C.A.P.D. in partnership with The Friends of Muskoka. This project has long been identified as a need through the Community Care Access Centre locally, in taking some of the pressure off health care professionals, and standardizing information available to their clients.

Seniors, and their family and friends, are encouraged to contact the *Accessibility Resource Centre* if they require assistance or direction with:

- Identifying different government and local funding sources, available to offer financial assistance (i.e., the Assistive Devices Program, community service groups);
- Information on home renovation products and vendors;
- Assistive devices vendors in their area, and price options;
- Contractors who are experienced in this area;
- Vehicle modification questions, resources and referrals; and
- Filling out forms or letters required for funding.

Feedback comments have been both encouraging and affirming of the service provided by the Accessibility Resource Centre, such as:

"Thanks so much for those suggestions. I had no idea what to do or where to go before I called you".

"It was great to talk to someone who understood my issues and who stuck with me to sort things through."

In the first 3 months of operations, the Accessibility Resource Centre has been able to see growth in the contact volume, and interest from service clubs and community organizations to utilize the expertise in their benevolent decisions. Other health care providers have also been referring clients to this center for "hands on" guidance and support. Additional information sessions are planned across the region over the next few months.

Contact the *Accessibility Resource Center* by dropping into The Simcoe County Association for the Physically Disabled at 44 Cedar Point Dr, Unit 1102 in Barrie, by telephone 705-737-3263 x 239, or 1-800-465-1133 (where long distance charges apply), or you can e-mail them at arc@scapd.on.ca.

Information regarding these resources is also available through their website at www.scapd.on.ca.

North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network forms Education Partnership

The North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network (NSMICN) is part of the Regional Infection Control Networks (RICN) initiative of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). Regional Infection Control Networks have been created across Ontario in order to improve the coordination and integration of activities related to the prevention, surveillance, and control of infectious diseases in all healthcare sectors. There are 14 networks across Ontario. The regional boundaries of the RICN align geographically with the Local Health Integrated Networks.



North Simcoe Muskoka

*Giving Health
a Helping Hand*

Every RICN has one shared goal – to promote a common, standardized approach to infection prevention and control activities, based upon best practices by supporting the sharing of information between members of their local network, other regional networks across the province, and the Ministry of health and Long-Term Care.

Who can access the resources provided by the Infection Control Network? If you are a healthcare provider then you can use all of the resources available through the Infection Control Network.

The North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network offers a variety of services. The most frequently used services are advice and consultation to practitioners on a variety of Infection Control topics followed by the many educational offerings provided on a regional and provincial basis. The RICN also provides videoconferencing, a bi-monthly newsletter, access to our well resourced lending library and presentations/in-services on-site to healthcare organizations. Not only does the North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network offer the above services and resources, they have also formed an ongoing education partnership with the North Simcoe Muskoka Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). This partnership has enabled them to provide education sessions for staff of the North Simcoe Muskoka CCAC as well as service providers in Barrie and Huntsville. In 2008, the NSMICN presented several education sessions on Hand Hygiene & Routine Practices, Disease Transmission & Additional Precautions, and Common Infections. This year, 2009, will see semiannual education sessions in the spring and fall season.

Visit the North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network website at www.ricn.on.ca. The North Simcoe Muskoka Infection Control Network website provides previous and current issues of their newsletter, an education calendar, archived news, and much more!

First Link Program Launched

During the month of January three Alzheimer Societies in this region will be launching the First Link™ Program. Funded by the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) through the Aging at Home Strategy, the First Link™ Program is a direct referral and early intervention program. First Link™ will provide easy access to comprehensive and coordinated services by reaching out to persons with dementia and their caregivers as early as possible in the disease process and throughout the continuum of the disease.

For more information on the First Link™ program, contact Mary Perry White, First Link Coordinator, at 1-866-971-2462 or firstlink@csolve.net. Mary is available to present information to your organization on how to use the direct referral system; please contact her to book a presentation today!