

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Greetings to all,

In my last message I said, "As I get older, I find that the years go by faster and faster, and there is still so much more to do." We are just coming off our best year ever, having celebrated our 20th anniversary, with a series of successful fundraising events, programs old and new and expanded services. Our most successful endeavour by far this year was the creation of the DSRI Summer School. By all reports, this school was well received and extremely successful and will be continued and expanded in the future. And there is more to do.

As Bob Dylan wrote, "The times they are a-changin..." and they certainly will be for the Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough (DSAP). In the past year, staff and the Board of Directors have undertaken to develop a plan to grow and expand the agency in a way not previously attempted in this country. This plan is intended to give individuals with Down syndrome an opportunity to live equally in society. Preliminary details of this plan will be presented to the membership at this year's Annual General Meeting. I would encourage all of you to attend and support this endeavour.

My time as president of the DSAP is coming to an end. I wish to express the deep gratitude I feel to all who have given me this opportunity to serve and for all the support I have received in the past two years. I believe in the spirit of rotation. I think it is healthy for an organization to change, grow and evolve. That growth is only possible with new people, fresh ideas and original thoughts. The sign outside the DSAP office, says, "people with Down syndrome dream exactly the way you do." Within this community there are people who have the skills and the abilities to make our dreams come true.

Also, I think it is important to note that the Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough wouldn't be the organization it is today without its members, many of whom give countless hours of their time to grow our agency. We wouldn't have the resources and programs and opportunities provided our members and to the community, without the dedicated group of directors, committees, staff and volunteers that create many of our exciting annual events.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the invaluable contribution to the agency by our Executive Director. Deb Reid has given tirelessly of herself, her time and her valuable experience. Her community involvement goes way beyond the needs of the organization, yet her dedication and professionalism always benefits the agency. Thanks, Deb.

Cheers, see you all at the AGM, Al Peers, President



KARATE

Due to the success of our graduating yellow belt class, we will be offering another class for beginners. Classes will run every other Saturday from Oct. 4th to Nov. 29th at Knox United Church from 12:45 – 1:45 pm. Cost is \$35.00. Please call the office asap to register.

THE DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
PRESENTS THE 2008 PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE
HELD IN TORONTO, ONTARIO
OCTOBER 24TH – 26TH, 2008
HOLIDAY INN YORKDALE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
THE HONOURABLE KATHLEEN WYNNE
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

DSAP is offering a subsidy of \$50.00 towards registration for those who plan to attend. Please forward your paid registration form to the office for reimbursement.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB PLANNING MEETING

A planning meeting will be held for members of the Friendship Club on Wednesday, October 15th, 2008 at Pizza Hut on Lansdowne Street from 5:30-7:00 pm. Join the Club today! Please call Deb to confirm your attendance.

**DOWN SYNDROME
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