

Good Day Autism Ontario – Niagara Region Chapter Friends,

As we move closer to our second month of 2012 we have some exciting news to share with you and some forthcoming opportunities that will definitely impact your lives and be of interest to your families and friends.

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2012/2013 NIAGARA REGION CHAPTER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

As our fiscal year end approaches, we enter a new year for our Chapter Leadership Council. The 2012-2013 Chapter Leadership Council of Autism Ontario's Niagara Chapter will be elected on **March 27, 2012**.

**We are now accepting nominations for the Leadership Council. There are a total of eight spots for our Niagara Region Chapter Leadership Council. I encourage you to consider joining us.**

### What is a Chapter Leadership Council?

The Chapter Leadership Council (CLC) is the heart of each Autism Ontario Chapter. The members of the CLC ensure that the business and general operations of the Chapter run smoothly. Joining the CLC is a tremendous way to both give back to a dedicated organization and to push forward in assisting Autism Ontario accomplish its' mission. CLC's are not advisory boards or tasked with governance issues. They are vibrant and energetic groups of people who are working to make a difference in their communities.

### How does the election work?

Nominations are submitted using the attached form. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **March 27, 2012**. **Elections will be held at the AGM**. Anyone who is a member-in-good-standing of the Niagara Region Chapter as of **February 27, 2012** is eligible to vote in the elections. Voters must be present at the meeting.

**[CLICK HERE FOR THE NOMINATION FORM.](#)**

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 6, 2012**

Please direct any questions to the Chapter Manager, Tamara Coleman-Lawrie at [chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com](mailto:chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com) or via phone at 905-682-2776, ext. 201.

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL FEATURE SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY DICK O'BRIEN ~ Tuesday, March 27, 2012**

NIAGARA REGION CHAPTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

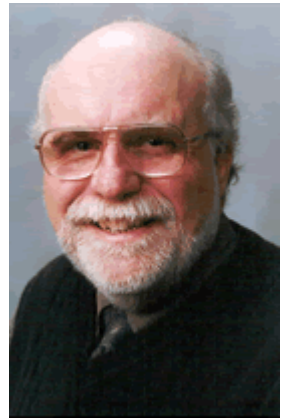
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Goodwill Stokes Community Village, Community Room  
36 Page Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 4A7  
No cost to participate, refreshments & light snacks will be provided.  
PLEASE NOTE: Child care will not be provided.

IT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU IN LIFE THAT COUNTS, IT'S HOW YOU  
CHOOSE TO RESPOND TO IT"

All are cordially invited to join us at our AGM for the Election of our Chapter Leadership  
Council & a Special Guest Presentation by Dick O'Brien on Self Care & Your Life Balance.

**TO REGISTER:** [Click here to register for the 2012 AGM.](#)



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## **DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN FEATURED AT UPCOMING SEMINAR ~ Tuesday, February 21, 2012**

Leading Edge Seminars presents *Developing Talents: Achieving Meaningful Careers for Young Adults with Asperger's  
and HFA* with Temple Grandin on Tuesday, February 21 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.  
[CLICK HERE FOR FULL EVENT DETAILS](#)

This event will bring together counsellors, social workers, psychologists, programme leaders and policy  
makers in order to create the agenda for post-secondary support services for adults on the autism spectrum.  
***ASD services for children and teens is just the start! Please join us for the next step!***

### **You will learn:**

- How to identify and nurture special talents in young people with ASD
- Ways of learning work skills at a young age
- How to design a career plan based on an individual's strengths and talents
- The life and social skills training components needed to support job-readiness programs

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## **NIAGARA REGION CHAPTER OF AUTISM ONTARIO FAMILY FUNDING 2012/2013 UPDATE ~ DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY**

Autism Ontario - Niagara Region Chapter offers two bursary programs designed to compensate persons with  
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families for the additional costs they incur to promote quality of  
life and inclusion in the Niagara Region communities. **The two bursary programs are: 1) Family  
Funding Bursary Program and 2) Adult Education & Training Bursary Program.**

The Family Funding Bursary is a reimbursement program designed to compensate families for costs they incur  
to involve a child or youth family member with ASD in social learning and recreational activities. The Adult  
Education and Training Bursary is a reimbursement program designed to compensate teens and adults (age  
16+) with ASD for costs they incur in pursuing educational and training opportunities.

**There is a 2 Step Process to Access Family Funding Bursaries on an annual basis.**

1. Complete an eligibility application by March 31<sup>st</sup> annually to ensure you have completed the required volunteers hours to be eligible for Family Funding Bursaries.
2. In April, the Chapter Leadership Council will make an announcement regarding which families have been approved for eligibility of the Family Funding Bursaries. Once you receive your approval, you then are required to throughout the year complete the application for funding.

[Click here for the 2012/2013 Family Funding Package.](#) This new package has been designed to walk you through the Family Funding Process.

Any questions can be directed to the Chapter Manager, Tamara Coleman-Lawrie at [chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com](mailto:chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com) or at 905-682-2776, ext. 201.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS – GET INVOLVED, SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

SAVE THE DATES AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### 13th ANNUAL BLUESAGANZA ~ SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2012

CAW Hall, 124 Bunting Road, St. Catharines

Doors Open 7pm, Blues Starts at 8pm

Tickets: \$10 Advance, \$15 At Door (for tickets email [autismniagara@on.aibn.com](mailto:autismniagara@on.aibn.com))

**Featured Musicians:** Steve Strongman, David Rotunda, Johnny Max, Mark Lalama, Garth Vogan, Dave Curry, Jim Casson, with Brian Soriver on Trumpet and Toby Stewart on Sax.



### 14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, MAY 25th, 2012

Rolling Meadows Golf Club, Niagara Falls, Ontario

SPONSORSHIPS AND REGISTRATION COMING SOON...



### ANNUAL EVAN'S RIDE IN SUPPORT OF NIAGARA CHAPTER SUNDAY, MAY 27th

Smithville Leisureplex, Raise pledges and participate in the ride! Contact us for additional details today!



### ANNUAL CYCLE FOR AUTISM ~ SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012

Merritt Island, Welland, Ontario

REGISTER YOUR TEAM, RAISE PLEDGES & JOIN US AS WE RUN, RIDE, ROLL & STROLL TO RAISE FUNDS FOR AUTISM NIAGARA REGION CHAPTER  
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON....

**STAY TUNED FOR A VOLUNTEER SHIFT SIGN UP SHEET COMING SOON.....**

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## THE POTENTIAL PROGRAMME ~ A Ministry of Children & Youth Services Funded Program of Autism Ontario



**The Potential Programme** is a unique service from Autism Ontario designed to directly support all Ontario families, parents and children affected by Autism Spectrum

Disorder (ASD). This programme provides support through greater access to ASD experts in their communities and to provide supportive community-based learning opportunities for children with ASD.

**The Potential Programme can provide you with:**

- ASD Information
  - Access to ASD Experts
  - Social Learning Opportunities
  - Community Events
- Connect to resources in your community

Many of you are involved with the Potential Programme through community events and social learning opportunities. **BUT DID YOU KNOW** that all social learning opportunities offered through the Potential Programme (i.e. movie mornings, play area functions, baking classes, etc...) **must** be ideas brought forward by families and they **must** have a Lead Volunteer. For example, if you wanted the Potential Programme to host a Cheeky Monkey's Event, you would contact Tara, the Potential Programme Events Coordinator and she would provide you with a form to complete. The form would identify your idea and who the Lead Volunteer is. Moving from the idea phase the Lead Volunteer would support the event with Tara's help to ensure it was successful. **DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A SOCIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY?** Contact Tara at [tara@autismontario.com](mailto:tara@autismontario.com) today and learn how you can help to host an event in your community.

### **UPCOMING POTENTIAL PROGRAMME EVENTS**

Craft events at Michaels (St. Catharines) – first and third Friday of FEB. and MAR., 5:00 -6:00pm [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Swimming (Hamilton) – Every Sat. for JAN. and FEB., location and time varies [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

TayKimTan's indoor playground (Niagara Falls)– Mon. Feb. 13 5:00 – 6:00pm [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Movie Morning (Hamilton) – We Bought a Zoo – Mon. Feb. 20 (Family Day) 10:00am, JACKSON SQUARE Empire Theatre [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Splitsville Bowling (Stoney Creek) – Sat Feb 25 10:00 – 11:00am [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT EVENTS – CONTACT TARA 289-442-0626 or [tara@autismontario.com](mailto:tara@autismontario.com)**

Parent Support Groups for parents of children with AS/HFA –Tuesdays 6:00-7:30, 36 Page St., St. Catharines (Topic TBD shortly)

Parent Support Groups for parents of children with Classic Autism – Thursdays 6:00-7:30, 36 Page St., St. Catharines (casual discussion group)

Parent Support Group/Craft and Games Club (Hamilton) – Mon. Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, Mon. Mar. 5, Mon. Apr. 2 6:30-8:00, 533 Main St. Hamilton

PRÉSENTATION -Éducation socio-sexuelle adaptée aux individus atteints d'autisme et du syndrome d'Asperger avec Dr Isabelle Hénault – Apr 3, 2012 - détails à venir!

PRESENTATION – Development of Adaptive Sexual Skills For Individuals with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome – Apr 4, 2012 – stay tuned for details!

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT PARENT SUPPORT AND WORKSHOPS – CONTACT KAREN 905-682-2776/305-528-8476 or [karen@autismontario.com](mailto:karen@autismontario.com)**

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As always, a special thank you to everyone who helps to ensure we have the tools necessary to support families that are affected by ASD. I remain hopeful that each of you will reach out to me personally to see how you can align your talents and expertise to help the Chapter build our profile, our fundraising revenues, knowledge and awareness in the community... all the while ensuring we are here to support every individual affected by an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

I encourage you to connect with me personally at any time at [chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com](mailto:chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com) or at 905-682-2776, ext. 201.

Thanks again and until next time,

**Tamara Coleman-Lawrie**

**Niagara Chapter Manager**

Autism Ontario – Niagara Region Chapter

36 Page Street, Suite 401 St. Catharines, ON L2R 4A7

P: 905-682-2776 F: 905-682-5609

E: [chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com](mailto:chaptermgr.niagara@autismontario.com)

**See the potential.**

*Visit us online at: [www.autismontario.com/niagara](http://www.autismontario.com/niagara) to make a donation or to learn more about how you can support Autism Ontario.*