

## Meet the Nominees for AO York's 2019/20 Chapter Leadership Council

Our 2019/20 Chapter Leadership Council will be elected at our Annual Chapter Meeting on May 22. These are volunteer positions. Take a moment to get to know the folks who are hoping to be part of our CLC for the coming year.

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**SUSANNE BAGNAROL** is a Mother of four, a parent volunteer for the past 14 years and Chapter Leadership Council Secretary for the past four years. Her son Andrew has Down Syndrome, Autism and a seizure disorder. Camp is a great source of happiness and friendship for Andrew. Susanne hopes to be able to help continue that experience for others.

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**RAHILA CHUGHTAI** is mom to two amazing boys aged 16 and 13. Her youngest is a smart, fun-loving boy with ASD. Rahila works as a sales and marketing consultant. She has volunteered for Autism Ontario York Region in the past few years, helping with the Raise the Flag campaign and other events. Rahila is the Vice Chair of the Family Engagement Council at the Children's Treatment Network, and is a Family Mentor, providing support and guidance to other families of individuals with ASD. She sits on the York ASD Partnership's Communications Working Group. Through her volunteer work Rahila hopes to bring attention to the challenges faced by the autism community and to find ways to better support them. She aims to promote inclusion of individuals with special needs at all levels in our community. Rahila has served on the CLC for one year and is seeking re-election for a second year.

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**JENNY DONNELL** is the mother of an 18-year old boy with Autism, developmental delay and a hearing impairment. Jenny knows first-hand the benefits that Autism Ontario offers to individuals, families and caregivers. As a member of Autism Ontario since 2003, and participant of the Leadership Council from 2006-2010, Jenny has learned from and advocated for the many support programs of Autism Ontario. She knows that knowledge and support is a constant need in all dealings with Autism, and wants to share the continuous learning for individuals on the autism spectrum and their caregivers. Jenny works full time at the McMichael

Canadian Art Collection in the capacity of Human Resources Manager.

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**MICHAEL FREEMAN** has worked in various capacities for the York Chapter Summer Programs for several years. He is an elementary school teacher with the York Catholic District School Board; which provides him with a valuable perspective regarding how parents, individuals on the spectrum, advocates and educators can interact.

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**HEIDI HITCHMOUGH** is the proud parent of two children, Ashley and Cody. Cody is 23 years old with Autism as well as a seizure disorder. She has been a member of Autism Ontario York Region for many years and has served on the Chapter Leadership Council as Secretary, Vice President and President of the Chapter. Over the past 20 years Heidi has worked closely with schools, teachers, administrators and therapists to develop programs for her son. Heidi has also been very involved and an active volunteer with various school programs and organizations throughout the region.

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**TINA ROGERS** is proud mother to two boys, Cory 21 and Alex 18 who has ASD. She has worked as a Personal Support Worker in long term care for over 25 years, caring for people with many physical and cognitive disabilities. Tina has been a member of Autism Ontario York Region Chapter for 12 years with six years on CLC, where she has been an active volunteer in parent support meetings, social learning activities, fundraising and Autism Awareness. She enjoys talking with others in the autism community, who are going through the same things. Giving and receiving tips is wonderful!