

OFVIC



The Ontario Foundation
for Visually Impaired Children

Annual Report 2006 - 2007

**Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (OFVIC) is to enable babies and young children who are blind or low-visioned to learn, experience and live all aspects of a full productive life; provide children and their families with service, support and assistance at the highest level; and encourage children and families to develop skills and knowledge necessary to achieve their goals with confidence and pride.

**Board of Directors
March 31, 2007**

President	Jean Porter
Vice President	Allan Hobbs
Secretary	Samara Polansky
Immediate Past-President	Susan Hansen
Treasurer	Frank Pantazopoulos

Directors	Leanne Bremner
	William Findlay
	Rena Shadowitz
	Sylvia Shippke
	Amin Remtulla

Management Staff

Executive Director	April Cornell
Program Director (FCRP)	Lindsay Hillier
Program Director (HPFS)	Ann Acheson

Annual Report of the President of the Board of Directors – June 2007

As Acting President, it is my pleasure to share with you the accomplishments of the Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (OFVIC) for the 2006-7 fiscal year.

This past year has seen the enhancement of best practices for the Board, led by our President, Jean Porter. Enhancements included Conflict of Interest guidelines, Board of Directors Insurance, and the accomplishments of the Board Work Plan. In addition, to strengthen the board's knowledge of the Foundation's service delivery model, presentations were made to the board by OFVIC Program Directors and special guests, Michael Bates, the Service Supervisor for Toronto Region, and Kevin Stewart, Clinical Consultant.

We would like to acknowledge our many supporters, corporate donors, and volunteers who have made various contributions, all of which have played a significant role in accomplishing our goals this year.

OFVIC especially wants to thank the following 3 Board members who stepped down from the Board this year: Claudia Miatello, Andy Downes, and Jean Porter.

Both Andy and Jean were long serving members of the board who made enormous contributions of their time and talent.

Jean was on the Board of OFVIC for nearly 10 years, serving as Chair of the Fundraising Committee, Secretary and most recently as Board President. She made enormous contributions to the success of the organization and she has left this Board stronger and better positioned for the challenges ahead. We thank Jean for her strong leadership and dedication.

Andy Downes was also a 10 year Board member. Through Andy, OFVIC forged strong ties with financial supporters who have provided great assistance over the past many years.

Claudia served as Treasurer, and plans to continue on with the Fundraising Committee.

In addition, we were pleased to welcome 2 new Board members this year: Rena Shadowitz and Amin Remtulla.

The 7th Annual Walkathon in May was supported by our dedicated walkers, pledgers and volunteers. Thanks to the efforts of this group, we received in excess of \$19,000 in donations. We are especially grateful to the Fundraising Committee, Sandra Cercone, and the entire OFVIC staff for their hard work on this event.

As we wrap up another successful year, it is with confidence and optimism that I look forward to the future. OFVIC is beginning to collaborate with a new Government initiative, the Ontario Blind/Low Vision Early Intervention Program, that will provide new opportunities and challenges for this Board and the staff of OFVIC. This means that all children identified as visually impaired, and their families, will have direct access to appropriate early intervention and support.

I believe we have the commitment and skills to change and adapt to the needs of those we serve and I look forward to the opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,

Allan Hobbs
Acting President

Executive Director's Annual Report 2007

It is my privilege to share the highlights of the accomplishments of the services of the Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (OFVIC) during this past year.

OFVIC continues to emphasize the importance of increasing the capacity of our community partners in supporting the development of young children with a visual impairment, by developing training opportunities geared to the specific needs of the various professional service providers.

This past year, with a grant from the Regional Municipality of Peel, we have developed a workshop for Early Childhood Educators which focuses on the provision of service to a child with a visual impairment within a group setting. This training will be offered to the community in the coming year.

This year the High Park Forest School Program, in collaboration with the Family and Community Resource Program, planned and implemented two major projects: the Cortical Intervention Resolution Program and the Tactile Perception and Braille Recognition Program. The primary goal of both projects was the identification of the required staff time and support that would allow for the successful implementation of the program for a child in a community or home based setting. Both projects were successful in meeting this goal. Planning has begun to initiate implementation of the programs, as appropriate, for a child attending a community program.

OFVIC continues to receive requests for support from providers outside of our service area. Recognizing the challenges in providing support at a distance and with the guidance of OFVIC's Clinical Consultant, Kevin Stewart, the consultants have begun developing the skills and knowledge to support the assessment and planning process through analysis of video taping and focussed interviewing. We are grateful to the individual and corporate donors, who through their generosity have enabled OFVIC to maintain the Clinical Consultation service.

OFVIC continued to actively participate on the Ontario Blind and Low Vision Preschool Coalition. On January 29th, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, Honourable Mary Ann Chambers, announced funding for the implementation of a Province Wide Service for young Children with Visual Impairment, through the Best Start Initiatives. OFVIC is pleased to work with the Ministry and the Community in supporting the province wide service system ensuring that all children with visual impairment and their families have access to appropriate early intervention services.

Programs and Services

Family and Community Resource Programs

- **Objective:** The Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children's Family and Community Resource Program is a family-centered, early intervention service for young children with a visual impairment. The program is designed to facilitate the growth and development of the child within the context of his or her family and community. The consultants provide support to the child, the family and community early intervention professionals.
- **Program:** The consultant, in collaboration with other involved professionals, develops a family centered plan that addresses the developmental and unique learning needs of children with a visual impairment, with and without additional disabilities, that is compatible with the family's priorities and preferences. Programming emphasis is placed on the unique teaching strategies and learning styles of children with visual impairments to facilitate their overall development, environmental access and interactions with their family and community.
- **Services Provided:**
 1. Consultation to the family and community professionals in both home and community settings.
 2. Collaboration in the development and implementation of the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
 3. Programming to promote the development of visual, tactile and auditory senses, as well as specific adaptive skills including visual efficiency, orientation and mobility, and pre-braille skills.
 4. On-going training for family and community professionals.
- **Areas Served:** Toronto, Peel, Halton, Durham, York and Simcoe Regions.
- **Total Children and Families Served in 2006/2007:** 164.

Wait List Support Service

- **Objective:** The Wait List Support Program was developed as a support for families while waiting for full-service.
- **Program:** This program offers immediate and ongoing support to parents while waiting for service to begin. It assists parents to recognize the non-verbal expressions and responses of their infant and supports them in building and strengthening the parent-infant bond. The program facilitates parental confidence through increased knowledge and will connect them with other parents of children with visual impairments within their geographic areas as may be requested.
- **Services Provided:**
 1. Home visit to complete an initial assessment of the child's functioning, parent priorities and family community supports.
 2. Suggestions provided to the family for communicating and playing with their infant or toddler to stimulate growth and development.
 3. Written and visual resources shared with parents, providing general information relating to visual impairment in the young child.
 4. Monthly telephone contact with the family and other involved professionals.
- **Number of Children on waitlist at year end: 5.**

High Park Forest School

The High Park Forest School offers a daily group program for children ages 2-5 from September through June.

- **Objective:** The objective of the High Park Forest School program is to provide the environment and means to promote the overall growth and development of the child within a group setting.
- **Program:** This program follows a developmental curriculum which is individualized for each child based on the outcome of the functional sensory assessments. Emphasis is placed on the development of visual, tactile and auditory senses, and specific adaptive skills including: visual efficiency, orientation and mobility, and pre-braille skills. The environment has been physically modified to accommodate the special needs of the children.
- **Services Provided:**
 1. Development and implementation of the child's individualized program plan (IPP) with in the group setting.
 2. Collaboration with other professionals on the child's IPP team.
 3. Parent support and training through home visits.
 4. On-site training for community professionals and college students.
- **Number of Children Participating in the Program in 2006/2007:** 15.

Financial Highlights

12 Month period ending March 31, 2007

Revenue

Governments Grants	\$ 700,682
Donations and Fundraising	\$ 125,470
Other	<u>\$ 25,570</u>

Total Revenue **\$ 851,722**

Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 723,789
Programming, Supplies and Equipment	\$ 5,310
Office and Administration	\$ 24,393
Building Occupancy	\$ 15,661
Training	\$ 560
Program Transportation	\$ 17,744
Insurance	\$ 20,669
Travel	\$ 34,844
Professional Services	<u>\$ 33,211</u>

Total Expenditures **\$ 876,181**

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(April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007)

Donations Received

Corporate Donors:

Bart & Company
Canadian Tire Foundation for Families
CIBC
Fortinos Supermarket Ltd. (Head Office)
Fortinos (Etobicoke)
IBM Employee's Charitable Fund
Inco Limited
Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.
Loopstra Nixon LLP
M&M Meat Shops Ltd.
Mancor Canada Inc.
Norstar Corporation
RBC Royal Bank Employee Volunteer Grants Program
Sam's Club (Etobicoke)
The Rexlaw Management Limited Partnership Woodbine Place
York Region District School Board
926746 Ontario Inc.

Service Clubs:

Lake Shore Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 645 G.R.C.

Gifts in Loving Memory:

Pat Borys
C. W. Eggett
Elizabeth Ann Grosse
Cathy Murray
Timothy Murray
Dorothy Inez Richardson
Nicholas Joseph Soloduk
Eileen Tennant
Mr. Tennant
Giuseppe Villani
Nancy Ann Weston

Gifts in Lieu of Gifts:

Kay Moffat and Andre Boodt (Marriage)
Jean Porter (Birthday)

Planned Giving Premium:

Beryl Pitfield