

# OFVIC



The Ontario Foundation  
for Visually Impaired Children

Annual Report 2007 - 2008

**Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children  
Annual Report 2006-2007**

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (OFVIC) is to enable babies and young children who are blind or have low-vision 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.

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March 31, 2008**

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## **Annual Report of the President to the Board of Directors – June 2008**

As President, it is my pleasure to share with you the accomplishments of OFVIC for the 2007-8 fiscal year.

This has been a year of pivotal change, as we moved forward with the planning and implementation of the new Ontario's Blind Low Vision Early Intervention Program.

This new program began in September of 2007, and insures that children who are born blind, or have low vision; have access to specialized family centred services, that are essential for the child's optimal development.

With this program, OFVIC has entered into new partnerships within the regions, and saw some re-alignment of direct service. Coordinators of the Infant Hearing Programs at Markham Stouffville Hospital, Toronto Public Health, and Erin Oak Kids were identified as the lead agencies for the Blind Low Vision program in our existing service areas.

The long term benefit of these changes will be the ability to compile broad based data that will aim to strengthen the services provided to young children with visual impairments.

As a board, we have supported the organization in helping to lay the foundation for these changes, to provide solid leadership and guidance as OFVIC moves forward with an expanded role.

I would like to formally thank all members of the Board, the Fundraising Committee and the many individuals who have worked hard to make this a successful year. I would also 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.

## **Executive Director's Annual Report 2008**

This past year has been both exciting and challenging for OFVIC with the planning for, and implementation of the Ontario Blind Low Vision Early Intervention Program through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The new program ensures all infants and young children with visual impairment, and their families, in the Province of Ontario will have access to the appropriate early specialized supports and services. OFVIC is pleased to be a partner with the Ministry and Regional Lead Agencies as we continue to support the enhancement of the services to young children and their families.

Under the Blind Low Vision Program, OFVIC has entered into new partnerships with the lead agencies of the Infant Hearing Programs in the regions we serve. We have increased consultant time for the provision of direct service in the Regions of Toronto, Halton-Peel, and York. In March 2008, the consultation service for the County of Simcoe was transferred to the Simcoe, Muskoka-Parry Sound Blind Low Vision Program. Families in Simcoe County now have access to a locally based service provider. OFVIC will continue to be available to provide professional training as may be requested.

OFVIC continues to emphasize the importance of building the capacity of our community partners in supporting the development of young children with visual impairment. The Family and Community Resource Program continued to deliver workshops and presentations to community Special Needs Resourcing, Infant Development, and other professionals. The High Park Forest Preschool program hosted visitors from a variety of college and University training programs.

We are most appreciative for the support from our regional partners and our volunteers who have contributed their talents in support of the services to the children and their families.

## 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 Child and Family Service Plan (ICFSP).
  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, and York Regions.
- **Total Children and Families Served in 2007/2008: 176.**

## High Park Forest School

The High Park Forest School offers a daily group program for children ages 2-5

- **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 2007/2008: 17**

## Financial Highlights

12 Month period ending March 31, 2008

### Revenue

Governments Grants	\$ 805,462
Donations and Fundraising	\$ 146,519
Other	<u>\$ 23,520</u>

**Total Revenue** **\$ 975,501**

### Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 758,523
Programming, Supplies and Equipment	\$ 35,025
Office and Administration	\$ 33,780
Building Occupancy	\$ 14,485
Training	\$ 873
Program Transportation	\$ 16,741
Insurance	\$ 20,923
Travel	\$ 36,863
Professional Services	<u>\$ 30,333</u>

**Total Expenditures** **\$ 947,549**

*The Ontario Foundation for Visually Impaired Children*  
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(April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008)

**DONATIONS RECEIVED**

**Corporate Donors:**

Bonis & Company Ltd.  
CIBC  
Cupe Local 2316  
Fortinos Supermarket Ltd. (Head Office)  
IBM Employee's Charitable Fund  
Inco Limited  
Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.  
Johnny The Wrench Plumbing and Contracting  
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 Millcroft Inn & Spa  
The Rexlaw Management Limited Partnership Woodbine Place

**Service Clubs and Community Groups:**

Lake Shore Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 645 G.R.C.  
St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School

**Gifts in Loving Memory:**

Richard Gogo  
Sonya Ivey  
Richard Kiyonaga  
Timothy Murray  
Erik Pick  
Marjory Sanderson  
Rena Smith  
Eileen Tennant  
Mildred Thomas

**Gifts in Celebration of:**

Ray and Barbara Boyle (50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)