



# RAPPORT

April 2007  
Volume 2, Issue 1  
Spring & Summer  
Edition

## NORTHERN ONTARIO FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER (NOFCC)

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## From the Editor

“Life is just what happens to you, while you’re busy making other plans,”

John Lennon, “Beautiful Boy (Darling Boy)”

Is it time to change my desk calendar again? Man, it seems like I change this thing every month. I really wish that I was like normal/disciplined individuals...you know, the ones who carry around day-timers or those Blackberries. But no, I have a desk calendar; therefore I must transfer phone numbers and messages that I hadn’t gotten to last month to the new month. And so as I flip the calendar page to review next month’s work and personal plans, a single date catches my attention and hits me like a slap in the face...April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The day that would change my life forever; the day that would kick-start the series of unwelcome anniversaries, the day I was told my daughter has cancer.

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As a parent who has gone through this, I tend to reflect on past events and replay the whole ugly scenes in my mind again and again. For instance, I remember the visits to Sick Kids..., I remember the times she was allowed to come home and the times she had to go back to Toronto..., I remember when she went into remission and when she fell out of remission...and so on and so on. But reflecting on these events does not necessarily conjure up feelings of sadness. Many times I think about the wonderful people I’ve met and still associate with because of April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*continued on page 4*

## Speaking of Calendars ....

The NOFCC Board of Directors would like to welcome anyone interested in attending our monthly meetings. These meeting are open to the public and would be a great opportunity to see the outstanding work the NOFCC is doing in the Sudbury region and in many other northern communities. The NOFCC meets the fourth Monday of each month (except July & August). David Langlois (board member) has graciously allowed us to use office and boardroom space he has available at **667 St. Clair Street, Sudbury** (off McLeod St.)

- Upcoming Meeting Times – May 28/07 @ 7:00pm  
– June 25/07 @ 7:00pm  
– Sept. 24/07 @ 7:00pm

Should you have an hour out of your busy day and would like to attend one of our meetings, or if you have any questions regarding our charity, please contact Micheline Ferguson, NOFCC President at 705-693-9227 or toll free at 1-888-993-9227.

## “Have Rod ----- Will Fish”

Fishing season is right around the corner and for the third year in a row, Fishing 4 Children’s Charities has selected the NOFCC as their charity of choice. Over the past 2 years, Fishing 4 Children’s Charities has raised **\$26,000.00** on the fishing derby alone. The number of fishermen entering this event has been going up and up, thanks to the hard work and professionalism of the Tournament committee members. Last year saw 67 boats and well over 130 people participating in this one-day event. Our goal is to have 100 boats this year, as more boats means more funds the NOFCC can put towards programs. This year’s Pike Tournament is being held one week earlier than in previous years, on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, the Board of Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer, on behalf of the families they assist, would like to thank the many fishermen/women who come out in support, the MNR Conservation Officers, area businesses that donate money and prizes, and a special thank you to the committee members of Fishing 4 Children’s Charities.

**Pike Tournament  
Whitewater Lake, Azilda  
Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Entry Fee \$200.00 per Team of Two**

Additional info/registrations: contact Louise Gosselin @ 969-8664

## Valdy to perform benefit concert

One of Canada's best-loved performers returns to Sudbury on Sunday April 29, at St. Andrew's Place (111 Larch St.). Valdy, a two time Juno Award Winner, will be joined by Dala – an up-and-coming group from Toronto. Valdy's last two performances here in Sudbury have been sold out; so get your tickets early. Valdy loves playing at St. Andrew's Place because of the warm acoustics and great vibes.

This concert is the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NOFCC Spring Benefit Concert** that Bob Bale and his promotion company *Affinity Concerts* have put on for our charity. Last March, Bob arranged for the Northern Pikes to come to Sudbury, for a fabulous performance which generated much needed funds for the NOFCC. Bob has been putting on concerts for years, raising funds for local charities. With Bob's dedication to helping the

less fortunate, and his professionalism in bringing first class performers to Sudbury, it is no wonder many area businesses have joined Bob in bringing awareness to the NOFCC.

This year's sponsors include: Jan Oystriick of Re/Max Crown, Laking Toyota, Pizza Hut, City Surplus, Bristol Machine, and Golder Associates. Performer accommodation is provided by Sudbury Travelodge and media support is provided by EZ Rock, Big Daddy, and Northern Life. Tickets for the show are \$20.00 and may be purchased at Black Cat Too on Durham St.

If you would like more information about this concert or to book advanced reservations, please contact Bob Bale at 705- 523-6200.

## Yard Sale & BBQ

Richie Schraeder, owner of Joe's Garage at 2354 Maley Drive (behind Reese's Restaurant) will be having a Grand Opening on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This event will be coupled with a Yard Sale, as well as a BBQ, (11:00 am to 2:00 pm) and Bake Sale, with proceeds to the NOFCC.

We are looking for donations of yard sale items and baking for this exciting fundraising event. For more information on the event, or to make a donation, please contact: Brian @ 524-3738 or Micheline @ 693-9227 or Lorraine @ 564-9467 or Kim @ 566-3579.

## Laptop Campaign a Success!

Always looking for new challenges, NOFCC President Micheline Ferguson asked Allison Andlar, Pediatric Interlink Nurse for Northern Ontario if there was something specific the kids on treatment needed. The NOFCC had launched their KeepConnected laptop lending program 2 years ago, and with an increasing demand for this program which keeps teens and older kids connected to school, friends, and family while away for treatment, more laptops were desperately needed. As a result, a laptop campaign was launched in March and directed at communities outside of Sudbury in an attempt to increase support from the surrounding areas assisted by NOFCC. Several service clubs Micheline approached recognized the benefits the NOFCC programs provide northern families dealing with childhood cancer in their communities and stepped up to the plate. Our requests were answered with very kind donations from the Cochrane Lions Club (\$500) and the Garson Lions Club (\$300) to purchase laptop computers.

Then, in a most generous move Dr. Gordon Alexiuk, Secretary for the Espanola Lions Club – announced that they would donate **\$4,000** towards the purchase of laptops and related equipment. With this support we were able to almost double our complement of laptops to nine units (and all necessary accessories), providing a computer package to a number of children waiting for this needed service. Thank you so much!

Around the same time, Micheline recognized with the group growing and her role in it expanding, she too needed a computer to keep up with the demands of NOFCC presidency. The Elizabeth Fry Chapter I.O.D.E. donated \$1,500 for the purchase of a laptop for the President to use. *The Elizabeth Fry Society must have heard that Micheline's children were complaining that she was constantly using their computer – thanks for keeping the peace at the Ferguson household !!!*

## All Clean Stand - Up Comedy Team

After reading the article in the MidNorth Monitor last January concerning Dr. Greenberg's upcoming presentation and the story of 2 of the many families helped by NOFCC in the Espanola area, BoogieMan Promotions contacted us to find out more about our organization. After some discussion, we thought that having an evening full of laughter was in order.

Feeling stressed? Need a good laugh? Come share in the fun Friday May 25 at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel. **The All Clean Stand-Up Comedy Team** starring **JIM McALEESE** (as seen on CBC Comics, Club 54 and A & E's Evening at the Improv) "Will make you laugh until you cry". Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Time: 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

## They Say Hindsight is 20-20

On Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the NOFCC welcomed the arrival of Dr. Mark Greenberg – a major personality in the world of Pediatric Oncology. Dr. Greenberg was invited to Sudbury by the NOFCC to discuss the long-term effects of treatments for childhood cancers. The subject of the long-term effects and survivorship in childhood cancer is very close to Dr. Greenberg's heart. As Medical Director of the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO) and director of the Hospital for Sick Children Aftercare Program, Dr. Greenberg now focuses on the survivors. He is involved in research into the late effects of treatment, epidemiology of childhood cancer, and quality of life issues for adult survivors. He was one of several authors of a study, the results of which were published in 2003 under the title of **"Education, Employment, Insurance and Marital Status among 694 survivors of pediatric low extremity bone tumours."** Dr. Greenberg began by describing, in very easy-to-understand language and accompanied by descriptive slides, exactly what cancer *is* and how it develops; this led to discussion how the medical profession can treat it. It was obvious that it was vital to understand cancer's nature in order to correctly treat it.

"They" say that hindsight is 20-20, which seems particularly applicable in this case. Basically, most cancer treatments consist of massive doses of medication whose major purpose is to attack the malformed cells that make up that disease called "cancer". However, in the earliest history of treatment, and even today, that treatment isn't specific enough to attack *just* the damaged cells – it also harms good ones, like mucus membranes, which explains why some cancer

survivors have problems with tasting foods, or with runny noses or dry mouths. Dr. Greenberg's concern is with what other damage may have been caused. For instance, some of those later effects he mentioned are secondary cancers (not recurrences of the original diagnosis, but other cancers), learning disabilities, early menopause and fertility/conception problems. Osteoporosis was also mentioned, as was cardiovascular disease and obesity. "The cure for childhood cancer is one of the miracles of modern medicine", said Dr. Greenberg "In the early days of treatment in childhood cancers, the fundamental question was, could you get survival? When we got survival, we thought we had a great success. And we did. But the next step is what's beyond survival, and that's where we are now."

The audience came from as far away as Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, North Bay and points in between. Included in the more than 140 guests were 14 survivors, one of whom was accompanied by her spouse and child and was a patient of Dr. Greenberg's 27 years ago. She welcomed the chance to thank him for all he had done to save her life. In addition we had a 26 year survivor attend who was also accompanied by his wife and child.

Dr. Greenberg also spoke about the importance of aftercare for adult survivors of childhood cancer. The effects from treatment can show up years later, and monitoring by a physician trained to look for these signs is important. To inquire about aftercare in Ontario, contact the Princess Margaret Hospital adult aftercare program (Toronto).

## Reading, Writing, & Learning 101

G.I. Landry Remediation and Consultation Services is a bilingual academic remediation service. Their objective is to provide remedial help for youth, adolescents, and adults having difficulty in any grade level and in any subject.

Remediation is different than tutoring in that it is a service provided by Academic Remedial Service Providers who re-teach concepts that a student has not attained. This is done using learning strategies and the students own strengths and learning style.

They have worked diligently and professionally with over 200 students in the past 14 years. The students who have come to them have a learning disability, a learning difficulty or simply need some assistance with an academic subject. Their goal is to ensure that students understand their own learning style, learn strategies, become independent learners, and most of all gain self-esteem. To learn more about G. I. Landry, Remedial and Consultation Services, please contact Gloria Landry, Remedial Specialist at (705) 677-4916 or e-mail her at [glolandry@sympatico.ca](mailto:glolandry@sympatico.ca)

## Camp Grenada

**Hello Muddah, hello Faddah  
Meds are working, feelin bettah...**

Parents, with the warmer weather coming and your kids looking forward to two long months of summer vacation, you may want to consider sending your kid to camp. Summer camp is a chance for kids to be kids, a chance that is often too rare for kids dealing with cancer. There are many camping options for kids on or off treatment, as well as their siblings. Camp Quality, Camp Trillium, and Camp Oochigeas are located throughout Ontario, providing a variety of summer camp choices including residential camps, day camps, and family camps.

Qualified volunteers, physicians and nurses staff these camps to accommodate children on and off treatment. For more information, contact the camps or your Interlink nurse.

**Camp Quality Northern Ontario**

1-800-899-3380

[www.campqualitynorth.ca](http://www.campqualitynorth.ca)

**Camp Trillium**

1-888-999-camp

[www.camptrillium.com](http://www.camptrillium.com)

**Camp Oochigeas**

1-416-961-6624

[www.ooch.org](http://www.ooch.org)

## ‘Cause I’m the Taxman, yeah I’m the Taxman’

Any family dealing with childhood cancer knows that the financial burdens of treatment can be great. Therefore, it is important to note that certain medical expenses can be claimed on your tax return. These include several out-of-pocket expenses such as meals, mileage, parking and accommodations. Receipts are generally required, especially for hotels and parking, but certain

pre-set amounts are allocated daily for meals and per kilometre without receipts. You may need confirmation of your appointments over the last year, which can often be obtained from a physician or nurse on your child’s treatment team. The following sources may be of assistance: A T1 tax form (with documentation) or visit [www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca](http://www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca)

## From the Editor cont’d...

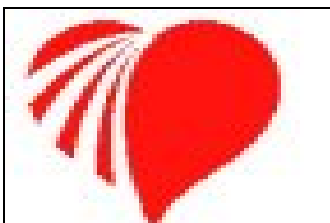
I remember the generosity of strangers and the 900 plus friends, acquaintances, and family members who attended my daughter’s fundraiser... and then I try to remember if I thanked them all. I guess my story about reflecting is no different from any other parents’ out there who have experienced the same or similar situation. Let’s be honest, when your child is sick, you have one focus and one focus only. In speaking with other parents, they too remember all sorts of anniversary dates – whether it be the day they found out their child had cancer; specific dates during their

child’s treatments; celebrating the day their child went into remission (and every year that follows), and mournfully the day their child passed on. It seems that it is only after being violently thrown from “the eye of the cancer storm”, where you find yourself leaning up against an overturned farm tractor, dazed and confused, that you can quietly reflect. For me, reflecting can be sad at times and yet happy at other times. Reflecting can sometimes be planned... or it can just happen while I’m busy making other plans.

## Start Spreading the News ...

Over the last couple of years, the NOFCC has been able to greatly expand the services they once offered because of the hard work from board members, volunteers, area businesses, other charities, and through the generosity of the public. As a Board Member, I have witnessed the growth of the NOFCC. Sadly, I have also witnessed the growth of children being diagnosed with cancer. There is only one chapter of the NOFCC and that is in Sudbury. However, the NOFCC does not only help the children of Sudbury, but children from all over Northern Ontario. It is because the NOFCC services such a vast region, that we need families from these communities to tell as many

people as they can about the good work the NOFCC does. For instance, write an article to your local paper, organize a small golf tournament, put on a yard sale, a car wash, a fun run etc. Talk to your children’s schools and see if they could do a fundraiser, maybe a walk in memory or in honour of a child who has so courageously fought cancer. Little things grow into big things, small connections grow into big connections, small donations grow into big donations, you tell a friend and they’ll tell friend, and so on and so on and so on...



## Acknowledgement of Support

### *Thanking you for your recent and continuous support....*

- ☺ John Carl MacIssac foundation for their generous \$5,000 donation. Thank you.
- ☺ The Minnow Lake Lions for their gracious donation of \$400.
- ☺ The kind donation of \$1000 by the Order of the Royal Purple Lodge #180 in Espanola.
- ☺ A big thanks to the following media outlets for their support regarding Dr. Greenberg's presentation: Le Voyageur, Bargain Hunter, The Sault Star, Northern Life, CHIC FM, The Sudbury Star, and The Mid-North Monitor. Over 140 guests attended, and this would not have been possible without you.
- ☺ The Espanola Lions Club for donating \$4,000 for the purchase of laptops.
- ☺ Elizabeth Fry Chapter I.O.D.E. for the donation of \$1,500 for the purchase of a laptop for the President of the NOFCC.
- ☺ A little change goes a long way; therefore we thank Williams Coffee Pub patrons and owner Bob Conlin for their continued support on always filling the NOFCC collection box.
- ☺ Megan's Wings Foundation for \$1500 towards NOFCC's annual Childrens' Christmas Party
- ☺ For the third year, Raymond Assurance's donation of \$500.
- ☺ Staples in New Sudbury for donating extended warranties on our four newest laptops.
- ☺ The Kinsmen Club of Sudbury for \$5,000 from the Home Sweepstakes.
- ☺ Jason McKibbon, owner of Crocodile Press, we thank you for all the free printing services.

### *Noteworthy Support:*

Chevalier de Colomb Conseil 8360 ☺ Joyce Rogers ☺ Melanie Tincombe ☺ Williams Coffee Pub  
 Mrs. Jan Oystrick of Re/Max Crown & The Jan Oystrick Re/Max Team ☺ Stephanie Roy ☺ Pizza Hut  
 Sudbury Mutual Planning ☺ Ten Rainbows Foundation ☺ Megan's Wings Foundation ☺  
 St. Francis School ☺ St. Raphael School ☺ St. Paul School ☺ Pius XII School ☺ St. David's School  
 ☺ St. Charles Elementary Catholic School ☺

*Special thank you to the Friends & Family of: Cheyenne Flamand-Waern,  
 Basil Hume, John Luopa, David Wolfhahrt, & Paul Daoust— for your donations.*

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Children with Cancer ~ NOFCC

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*Striving to improve the lives of families dealing  
with childhood cancer.*

## What Do We Do ... ..

Established in 1998 by a group of parents of children with cancer, the Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer (NOFCC) is a volunteer based registered charity that is not government funded and relies solely on public donations and fundraising events. Being parents themselves, they recognize the particular difficulties involved in caring for a child with cancer and the geographic challenges of living in the north.

The NOFCC serves all families who have been touched by childhood cancer –families with a child on active treatment, those off treatment, or receiving follow up care, and bereaved families.

Our area expands north to Timmins and Kapuskasing, south to Parry Sound, east to North Bay and west to Sault Ste. Marie, and all areas in between.

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*We're on the Web!*

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*Visit us at:*

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**www.nofcc.ca**

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### Board of Directors

**President**— Micheline Ferguson

**Past president**— Lorraine Chartier

**Treasurer**—Ian Fitzpatrick **H.B.Acc.,CA**

**Secretary**—Jane Dupuis

**fundraising, publicity, Newsletter Committee:** Ernest Boeswald & David Langlois **Pediatric interlink nurse**— Allison Andlar **BScN,RN**

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