



RAPPORT

November, 2007
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Fall & Winter
Edition

NORTHERN ONTARIO FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER (NOFCC)

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From the Editor

“If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it”.

Mary Engelbreit

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, we finally found the time to close up the camp. I simply dread this time of year. It's not the work I dislike (over the years I have developed a system that makes things go quite smoothly) but what it represents. Now I know what you are thinking – he doesn't like the change in temperature, or the changing of the leaves, or the change in his weekend routines. Well. Okay you're partly right but the fact of the matter is... I simply don't really care for change. Now I know change can be a wonderful thing. It can be exciting, fun, mysterious, and even interesting. Conversely, it can also be sad, lonely, scary, and quite empty.

For instance, my household recently underwent a

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number of changes such as: the birth of my third son, the purchase of a new home and of course the bittersweet feelings of leaving our old home, and the start of a new position at the College. Did I welcome these changes freely – you bet I did and I am enjoying every single minute of it. On the other hand, there is a part of me – and there are times when these changes leave me sad and empty. As a bereaved parent I often wonder what it would be like to have my daughter around during these pleasurable changes. Moving forward with change is hard, especially when you feel that you have left someone behind. I know change is inevitable, I know I can't change what happened; therefore, I must change the way I think and feel about change.

NOFCC's Annual General Meeting

The NOFCC's 3rd Annual General Meeting is a great opportunity not only for families of children with cancer, but anyone else willing to learn more about the programs the NOFCC has to offer. This AGM is open to the public so all are welcome.

Should you have any questions regarding this event, please feel free to contact Micheline Ferguson, NOFCC President at (705) 693-9227 or Vicky Wilton, Pediatric Interlink Nurse at 1-800-293-2309

NOFCC's 3rd Annual General Meeting

WHERE: Travelway Inn (Ramsey Room off Lobby)
WHEN: Wednesday, November 21, 2007
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Light Dinner & Social – following the meeting

The Belle of the Fantasy Ball

On October 20th, I was on an imaginary boat cruise aboard the S.S. Idylwylde and then I dined at the Idylwylde Golf and Country Club. As I gazed in awe at the 200 plus guests throughout the evening, I remembered the old days of car washes and penny sales as well as hauling around the 5 foot and 4 foot teddy bears to grocery stores trying desperately to drum up awareness about a new charity called the NOFCC. Upon looking at the guests, I felt so proud of the accomplishments of our past and present volunteers. I was overwhelmed by the success of the evening and honoured that these businesses had chosen to support our charity.

This unbelievable and unforgettable evening was the idea of Jan Oystrick and her team at Remax Crown Realty (1989) Inc. and became a reality with the outstanding efforts of a 10 member Fantasy Ball committee. Jan and her team did an excellent job of representing the NOFCC and achieved what had been for the past years a fantasy of NOFCC volunteers; to gain the support of Sudbury's business community leaders.

The evening consisted of dinner and dance with the music of the Sault Swing Band and DJ by Andre. There was also a silent auction of articles generously donated by local merchants and individuals. We applaud the committee who surpassed their goal of giving the charity \$50,000 (after expenses) and who raised an incredible **\$70,000.00**. This special evening would certainly not have been possible without their commitment and without generous donations from the Sudbury businesses and everyone involved in the evening's success.

We sincerely thank the Fantasy Ball Committee for all they have done as well as the *numerous sponsors*

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|--|--|

The Big One that Didn't Get Away

After 6 years of raising close to \$60,000.00, the committee of Fishing 4 Children's Charities are hanging up their fishing hats...well sort of. The committee decided to pass on their derby event and their expertise to the members of NOFCC. For the past 3 years, since Fishing 4 Children's Charities selected the NOFCC as their charity of choice, I have had the utmost pleasure of working alongside some of the nicest people God has placed on this earth.

This year's Pike Derby, which was held on July 7th, raised **\$19,000.00**. In 2006, the Derby raised \$15,000.00 and in 2005 – \$11,000.00.... Simply Amazing!! This just goes to show the tireless efforts and determination of the committee members to raise and set a personal best each year. The NOFCC would like to personally thank the Fishing 4 Children's Charity Members: Micheline L, Louise, Yvette, Gerry, Pete, Rickey, Kim, Cindy, Ron, Cynthia, & Sharon – (past committee members) Mike, Micheline B, and Rick.

In addition, a big thanks to the guys from the MNR, Craig McDermott–Owner Pizza Hut, Rick & the owners of the Valley Inn for coming to the rescue.

We would also like to thank Provincial Doors, Val Caron Equipment, and Northland Snowmobile and Marine for their generous donations of over \$1,000.00 for the past 3 years and to all of our sponsors and fishermen/women who make this derby better and better every year.

In addition to the wonderful support we received from all our sponsors, we would also like to thank Persona for presenting NOFCC with a donation of \$2,500.00 to go toward our KeepConnected Program during their annual campaign. They truly are "The Amazing Persona".

Next year's NOFCC Pike Derby will once again be held at:

Whitewater Lake in Azilda

Saturday July 5th, 2008.

Entry Fee \$200.00 per Team of Two

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

**If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the NOFCC's Pike Derby Committee, please contact Ernie Boeswald at 585–1536. A little help goes a long way.

Valdy Concert – A Big Hit

Once again, Bob Bale out performed himself. In April of 2007, one of Canada's best-loved performers – Valdy played to a sold out crowd at St. Andrew's Place. This concert involved great music, entertaining stories, and a chance to personally meet with Valdy and his opening act Dala. This year's Valdy concert brought in over **\$8,000.00** – just one of Bob's many triumphs. A special thank-you to all the sponsors: Jan Oystreich of Remax Crown (1989) Inc., Laking Toyota, Pizza Hut, City Surplus, Bristol Machine, and Golder & Associates, Respect is Burning, Black Cat Too, Travelodge and EZ Rock, Big Daddy, and Northern Life who provided the media support.

These are the People in Your Neighbourhood

Communities Coming Together in Pyjamas !!!

Many of the children spend their days in their pyjamas while being comforted by their favourite teddy bears. On September 19, children, teachers and their staff across northern Ontario participated in the **Toonie, Teddy Bear and Pyjama Day for Children with Cancer**. This inaugural fundraising event marked the first event held for NOFCC in the month of September. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month; a time to remember and to honour the children who have succumbed to the illness as well as honouring the children who have

battled or who are so courageously battling cancer and who will have to deal with the effects of the illness or its treatment. Schools welcomed the initiative and are looking forward to participating in this fun and easy event next year. Thank you to schools in the following areas: Chapleau, Coniston, Desbarats, Elliot Lake, Iroquois Falls, Lively, Nakina, North Bay, Parry Sound, River Valley, Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury, Val Caron, Wawa and Webbwood. Nos sincères remerciements aux écoles qui ont participé à la journée nounours et pyjama.

Northern Ontario Communities Coming Together

Michael Allard of Rogers Sudbury Radio Group- CJMX coordinated an awareness campaign across northern Ontario in support of NOFCC. The announcements aired on the stations throughout the months of September and October. Thank you to Rogers North Bay Radio Group- CHUR, Rogers Timmins Radio Group- CKGB and Rogers Sault Ste Marie Radio Group-CHAS for informing your community about our charity. A Special thank you to Rogers Sudbury Radio Group- CJMX for coordinating the publicity awareness campaign and for your continued support over the past 9 years.

KeepConnected Program

NOFCC's KeepConnected Program campaign was launched last winter in order to increase the number of laptops NOFCC had to offer its' families. The laptop lending program provides children on active treatment the use of a computer while away from school. Adding to the success of this campaign was Shelley Martel MPP for Nickel Belt and Kerns Central Lions Club in New Liskeard for their recent donations.

Walking for Johnathan

The Annual Johnathan Hetu Walk for Cancer took place Friday June 22, 2007 at St. Charles Catholic School. This year's walk raised more than **\$5000.00**. To the Chelmsford community, friends and family who support the event...we couldn't do it without you.

To the staff and students of St. Charles...thanks for keeping Johnathan's memory alive and well.

Hats Off to Hat Day

When Johnathan Hetu went to school, he often wore a hat to hide his head after his chemotherapy treatment. Mr. Nicholls, his teacher held "hat days" so that Johnathan wasn't the only student wearing a hat. Last June, St Charles Catholic Elementary School in Chelmsford invited other schools in their school board to participate in the Wear a Hat Day in memory of Johnathan. St Charles school was joined by a dozen other schools!

Saying Good-Bye to one of NOFCC's Founding Members

For past president Lorraine Chartier, the long and difficult journey of childhood cancer and its treatment began in 1991 when her youngest daughter Barbie was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma. Life took a sharp turn at the Chartier residence with Lorraine attending to Barbie's continuous medical needs while dad's role became divided between pursuing his education, working, maintaining the wellbeing of the entire family and numerous trips to Toronto; whilst their daughter Michelle stayed home and took on the responsibility of caring for her two brothers. During that period, most of Lorraine and Barbie's time was spent in Toronto either at the Ronald Macdonald House or in the hospital during Barbie's numerous surgeries and ongoing chemotherapy treatment.

After Barbie lost her long and courageous battle to cancer in 1996, Lorraine attended OPAC meetings in Toronto in an attempt to bring back the Rainbow CanCare support group in Sudbury. With the help of oldest daughter Michelle, and Janet & Guy (also bereaved parents), the foursome was determined to have a support group available to families in the Sudbury area who were dealing with childhood cancer. They understood the feelings of isolation following months spent out of town for their child's treatment and the geographical challenges of not being able to attend support groups in Toronto upon their return home. After unsuccessful attempts to bring back Rainbow CanCare, the foursome, along with other parents founded Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer-NOFCC in the fall of 1998.

In 2000, the NOFCC began fundraising activities to provide financial assistance to families as well as providing them with emotional support. The NOFCC expanded their support from the Sudbury region to assisting families throughout Northern Ontario. Although fundraising proved exhausting and challenging, Lorraine remained adamant that we continue helping the outlying areas. She would always remind us that since NOFCC was the fourth group started in Sudbury and that it was the only one that had survived that long, it would be difficult for outlying areas to have groups of their own given their smaller population. She would also remind us that families living in Northern Ontario had to deal with challenges that families living in Southern Ontario didn't have and that northerners had to stick together as one community. Today, 9 years later... a successful registered charity that has seen over 200 newly diagnosed children within our chosen areas. The charity is constantly growing, volunteers are continuously striving to make a difference and support from communities and community members continue to increase.

This summer we said goodbye to Lorraine. We realize that without her dream, perseverance and dedication, NOFCC would not be where it is today and that families would have to deal with their child's illness without our much-needed programs. Her accomplishments will always be remembered as something to be proud of. And although we will all miss her dearly at the meetings and events, Lorraine will be taking some much needed time for herself, her children and grandchildren.

Take care my friend; you are an inspiration to us all. Micheline

Anyone wanting to wish Lorraine the best can do so by sending their letters to the NOFCC address c/o Lorraine Chartier.

Good-Bye Allison....H-e-l-l-o Vicky!

'Out with the old and in with the new'. A common saying, not a literal saying albeit a saying that can have me killed if I don't properly explain myself. After 3 years of providing Northern families with some of the best services imaginable, Allison Andlar is leaving her position as Pediatric Interlink Nurse, in order to pursue another demanding position. The NOFCC would like to thank Allison for all her hard work and dedication throughout the years. We know Allison will excel in her new role just like she soared in her old position. Thanks Allison...we'll miss you.

With some sad news comes good news. The NOFCC would like their readers to welcome Vicky Wilton as the new Pediatric Interlink Nurse.

Vicky was born and raised in Sudbury, where she attended Laurentian University and received an undergraduate degree in Physical and Health Education, before graduating from the Nursing program at Cambrian College. Vicky has been employed with the Sudbury Regional Hospital since 1998 as a Staff Nurse on the Oncology/Palliative care unit and as a Nurse in Pediatrics and the Intensive Care Nursery. Before joining the hospital, Vicky worked a number of years with the CNIB, VON, & Bayshore.

Vicky wanted to become the Pediatric Interlink Nurse because she loves working with children and their families; plus she enjoys the challenges involved with community based programs. Vicky's experience in oncology, pediatrics, and homecare proves that she is the right person for this specialized position.

PLEASE NOTE: The Pediatric Interlink Nurse is a paid position with the Regional Cancer Center. Vicki's role is to provide guidance, support, and information to families of children with cancer. Vicki is a volunteer with the NOFCC and she is our connection to families dealing with childhood cancer

They're Here..... Mini Peel Cards

Due to popular demand, the NOFCC is once again selling their **Mini Peel Cards**. These cards are ideal for those renovating or building projects. It also makes for great stocking stuffers.

This year's cards are only **\$10.00** and offer a number of great savings. Many of your favourites are back, along with some new sponsors.

This year's line-up includes:

Home Depot	Pizza Hut	A&W	Arby's	Dairy Queen
Williams Coffee Pub	Penzoil	GoodLife Fitness	Future Shop	

For each Mini **Peel Card** sold, \$6.00 goes to the NOFCC. You can now purchase your PPC cards at the following merchants:

Cutting Trends (Lively)	Leather Works Plus (Val Caron)
Barrydowne Paint and Wallpaper (Long Lake Rd)	The Bargain Hunter (555 Barrydowne Rd)
Al's Service Center (corner of Lasalle & Falconbridge Hwy)	
Joe's Garage Automotive (Maley Drive)	or call NOFCC at (705) 693-9227

"Please support the merchants that support our community."

Santa Claus is Once Again Coming to Town

Grab your calendars kids, because Santa Claus is once again coming to visit his special children. Each year, Santa takes time out of his very busy schedule just to visit the NOFCC's Annual Christmas Party.

This year's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2007 at the St. Clement's Church currently called Marguerite Loughheed Memorial Centre on Eyre Street from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Please call us if you do not receive an invitation and would like to attend.

There will be gifts for the children, music, and lots of food.

Acknowledgement of Support

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

- ☺ The Staff of Cambrian College's The Glenn Crombie Centre & Job Connect (Valley East & Chelmsford office) for donating through the United Way Donor Choice Program. Thanks gals & guys...you're the best!!!
- ☺ The Kinsmen Club of Sudbury for \$5,000 from the Home Sweepstakes.
- ☺ Gary Smith for all his hard work on our brochure and to Jason McKibbon, owner of Crocodile Press for all the free printing services.
- ☺ Megan's Wings Foundation for \$1500 towards NOFCC's annual Children's' Christmas Party.
- ☺ To Bob Conlin, his wonderful staff, and his generous customers at Williams Coffee Pub for keeping the NOFCC's collection box full.

Noteworthy Support:

BPO Elks Lodge # 346 Espanola☺	Ms Pierina Squarzolo ☺	Joe's Garage
Williams Coffee Pub ☺	Royal Bank of Canada ☺	NAUSS Plumbing & Heating Inc.
Ten Rainbows Foundation ☺	Megan's Wings Foundation ☺	The Amazing Persona
Sudbury Mutual Planning ☺	Mr & Mrs David Paganucci ☺	Espanola Lions Club
IBM Employees, Markham ☺	Timmins Independent Grocers☺	Miss North Ontario Regional Canada
Pageant ☺	Dr. Lyne Giroux Dermatologist at the Sudbury Skin Clinic, staff and customers	

Special thank you to the Friends & Family for your donation in memory of: Kathryn Power.

Did You Know..... You can donate to the NOFCC through the United Way Donor Choice Program? Ask your employer or your United Way Representative for details.

**Northern Ontario Families of
Children with Cancer ~ NOFCC**

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Garson, ON P3L 1S6**

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1-888-993-9227**

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info@nofcc.ca**

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

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.nofcc.ca

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR VOLUNTEERS

PRESIDENT— MICHELINE FERGUSON

PAST PRESIDENT— LORRAINE CHARTIER

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PEDIATRIC INTERLINK NURSE— VICKY WILTON, **PHBE, RN**

What does the NOFCC do with my donations?

Food Voucher Program – Gift certificates are available to families receiving treatment at children’s hospitals in Toronto & Ottawa. Certificates may be for grocery stores, hospital food courts, & cafeterias.

Telephone Calling Card Program – Long distance prepaid calling cards are available to all families while they are away from home with their child for treatment.

Gas Coupon Program – Gas coupons are available in situations when children are in hospitals away from home for weeks and months at a time and trips are not covered by Northern Health Travel Grants. This allows the parent staying home with any other children to visit.

Parking Program – Assistance with parking costs while receiving treatment at the Hospital for Sick Children. Tokens are also available for parking at the Cancer Centre in Sudbury.

Taxi Fare Program – Taxi fares are reimbursed to families travelling from: airport to hotel; airport to Ronald McDonald House – vice versa or from hotel or Ronald McDonald House.

KeepConnected Program – Laptop lending program allows children to keep up with their school work, as well as keeping in touch with friends and staying occupied during long hours of treatment.

Emergency Program – Funds are available for miscellaneous emergency needs. Requests are assessed on an individual basis.

The NOFCC has **no paid** positions and **does not** receive any government funding. The NOFCC relies solely on fundraising activities and the generosity of northern Ontario communities.

