



# connections Ontario

*"Strengthening families for a brighter tomorrow."*

## ***Support Program Provides Networking Opportunities for Families Parenting a Child with Special Needs***

In November 2007, the Caledon Parent-Child Centre/Ontario Early Years Centre and Brampton/Caledon Community Living announced the beginning of a unique, collaborative program, Let's Get Together, for families in Caledon.

It was identified that Caledon families with young children who have special needs have minimal supports. Furthermore, families have few opportunities to meet other families experiencing similar challenges and successes. This can cause feelings of isolation and discouragement.

Let's Get Together is an opportunity for families with children 0 to 6 years of age to network and explore issues surrounding parenting a child with special needs. Families are invited to join us for evenings of play and fun activities for the whole family. Adults and children make new friends and connect in a safe and supportive environment. Consultants from service organizations often join the group to provide information and resources for families. The program continues to grow and expand as more and more families are discovering the benefits of connecting with others on a similar journey.

Let's Get Together families meet every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. A light meal is served so families don't have to worry about feeding the children before they come.

Please help us promote this wonderful program within the community. If you would like to learn more about the Let's Get Together program or know of someone who might be interested, please call us at 905-857-0090.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Laugh Out Loud:**

April 24, 2009 at Glen Eagle Golf Club. A charity event for ladies only. All proceeds go toward the Adjustments After Birth programs. Watch for ticket information on our website and at the Centre.

### **Family Fun Night:**

June 11, 2009 at the Caledon Parent-Child Centre. A celebration to help kick off the summer.

### **Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:**

June 17, 2009 at Glen Eagle Golf Club.



*"Prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child."*

*Unknown*

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## News & Reminders

### Unscheduled Closures

Occasionally our Centre has to cancel programs or close due to unforeseen circumstances. Please remember the Centre's policy in the event of poor weather conditions: **When Peel school buses are cancelled, all programs are cancelled and the Centre is closed. Please listen to your local TV or radio stations for bus cancellations.** If we have to cancel programs for other reasons, we will try our best to give ample notice to those registered.

### Scheduled Closures

April 10 & 11 – **Easter Weekend**

May 16 & 18 – **Victoria Day Weekend**

July 1 – **Canada Day**

August 1 & 3 – **Civic Holiday Weekend**

September 5 to 12 – **Labour Day Week**

### March Break

Just a reminder that there will be no programs during March Break (March 16-21, 2009), however, we will be open for Family Time drop-in. Keep in mind that children's play activities offered at the Centre are primarily designed for children from birth to six years of age.

### Registration

Please make note of the following registration dates. Our registration procedure and detailed program

descriptions can be found on our website.

**Spring Session** – March 30 to April 4 inclusive during regular Family Time hours (programs begin the week of April 20, 2009).

**Summer Session** – Most summer programs will be offered on a drop-in basis beginning the first week of July. Space may be limited. Watch for details in late spring. Our ever-popular "Get Ready for School Mini-Camp" will require registration. This Mini-Camp is a structured program for children going into JK or SK. The main focus of the program is to make the transition from home to school a little easier for the children going into JK and to reinforce the classroom structure for children who are going into SK. Mini-camp is a theme based program that includes school readiness activities, literacy, dramatic play, language and social skills. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis starting June 22, 2009.

**Fall Session** – September 14 to 19 inclusive during regular Family Time hours (programs begin the week of September 28, 2009).

### Parent Education Workshops

Navigating the challenges of parenting can sometimes feel like your in uncharted territory. Even well-

equipped, parents find themselves searching for guidance and support. Early Years Professionals at the CPCC are a valuable resource to parents and our workshops can provide information and skills to help you parent. Parenting education workshops are offered free of charge to parents of young children and are facilitated by experienced professionals. These workshops help parents anticipate and manage the complex issues that parents and families encounter everyday. For a complete listing of workshops being offered this Spring, visit our website at [www.cp-cc.org](http://www.cp-cc.org). Just a reminder that childcare is available for daytime workshops and must be paid for at time of registration. Childcare is available at a fee of \$5.00 per child.

### Evening Workshops

How to Talk So Kids Will Listen - March 4 (7 - 9 pm)

Taiko Drumming - March 25 (6:30 - 8 pm) For adults and children 2-6 yrs.

Co-ed Parenting - April 22 & 29 (7- pm) A 2-part workshop.

Sharing Parenting Concerns & Strategies - May 13 (7 - 9 pm)

Being the Best Dad You Can Be - June 3 & 10 (7 - 9 pm) A 2-part workshop.

## We need your financial support for sustainability and growth!

Help us continue to "Strengthen families for a brighter tomorrow" with your financial support. There are many ways to give including one-time donations, celebration gifts, designated United Way deductions, monthly gifts, sponsorship opportunities and planned gifts. For more information on making a gift in support of the Caledon Parent-Child Centre and the "Brighter Tomorrows Fund", visit our website at [www.cp-cc.org](http://www.cp-cc.org) or contact Maureen Thornton or Teresa Colasanti at 905-857-0090.

### Did you know ...

you can now make a donation to the Caledon Parent-Child Centre online? Simply go to the Donate/Support page on our website at [www.cp-cc.org](http://www.cp-cc.org) and use the Donate Now button through Canada Helps. Canada Helps is a unique Canadian donor portal, that offers a cost-effective method to charities, like ourselves, to facilitate online electronic donations. We've just made donating to the Caledon Parent-Child Centre even easier!

# Recognizing Our Supporters



Isolde Boettger (right), Vice-President of Silcotech North America Inc. presented a cheque sponsoring our Children's Christmas Party. Accepting the cheque was Ali Miller, Board of Director, with her children, Riley, Bailey and Zoe. A special thanks is also extended to Garden Foods and Anne Parsons from Trailside Bed & Breakfast for donating the morning snack.

**Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who made financial contributions in the past six months:**

## Corporate Gifts

Bolton Oldtimers Hockey Association  
Home Depot of Canada Inc.  
McDonald's (Bolton)  
Silcotech North America Inc.  
The Albion and Bolton Agricultural Society  
The Corporation of the Town of Caledon  
Zehrs Markets

## Individual Gifts

Erica Antoniou	Melissa McAllister
Isabel Boccia	Connie Mezzone
Marisa Bucci	Lynda Palmer
Lilia Fonseca	Jennifer Ptacek
Anthony Fonte	Gladys Rennie
Jana Ivanova	Cheryl Robb
Leah Kehoe	Tracy Smale
Sonia Lewis	Nancy Sutherland
Anna Malfara	Dragica Vrbetic
Ruth May	Amanda Zarifopoulos

Special thanks to the many businesses and individuals who made in-kind product and service donations in 2008 that helped offset costs of programs and fundraising initiatives.

Our gratitude to our funders for their long-standing financial support:

- the Ministry of Children & Youth Services
- the Region of Peel
- the United Way of Peel Region
- Health and Welfare Canada, CAP-C
- Human Resources Development Canada

We would like to acknowledge the Bolton & District Home Child Care Providers Network for their generous donation of a specialty high chair for our Snack Area. Thanks to Maria Falcone, Chairperson of the Network, and all its Members, especially the Baggio Family who spearheaded fundraising efforts for this purchase. From left to right: Maria Falcone (Chairperson), Eugenio Falcone, Michelle Pettigrew, Kathleen Baggio, Rosemarie Vanderhoff, and Robert Baggio.



## I SUPPORT THE CALEDON PARENT-CHILD CENTRE

150 Queen St. S., Bolton, ON L7E 1E3 Charitable Registration # 12353 8050 RR 0001

Mail your tax deductible donation today!

I would like to make a donation of:  \$20  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$200  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:  Miss  Mr  Mrs  Ms  Dr First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Simply mail a cheque payable to: Caledon Parent-Child Centre, 150 Queen Street South, Bolton, Ontario L7E 1E3

Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of \$20 and above unless otherwise specified. Thank you for your support!

We will periodically send you our newsletter highlighting our programs, initiatives and a list of our supporters unless otherwise requested. We respect your privacy. We do not sell or share our mailing list. If you do not wish to receive this information, please call us at 905-857-0090.





## A Message to our Volunteers

Many thanks to our dedicated front-line volunteers for their warmth and kindness as they help staff deliver programs: Mackenzie Barclay, Shaun Hawkes and Paul Smith.

Our gratitude goes out to our Special Events Committee for their strong commitment to raising funds for our Centre: Sonia Bertillo, Sue Chiovitti-Bogner, Melissa Downey, Patti Dueckman, Rose Greco, Carol Medhurst, Ali Miller, Margie Mols, Anne Parsons, Katie Pipitone, Lorella Pipitone, Michelle Schultz, Meredith Taylor and Vanessa Valente. Special thanks to Kelly Rumney and Pam Seidel for their assistance with our Scholastic Books fundraiser.

## Become a Volunteer

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer with our Centre, we would love to hear from you. Teresa Colasanti, Manager of Volunteers

## Connecting Caledon's Rural Neighbourhoods

Since the Centre's early days, a vital service has been our mobile outreach unit, a modified van used to transport toys, resources, program supplies and staff to the many rural areas within Caledon. Weekly, you can find staff delivering programs in rented space throughout Caledon's rural communities where children's programming is quite limited. During these van stops, anyone caring for a young child can drop in with the children in their care to play, learn and participate in songs, crafts and story time. A secondary benefit of these van stops is its power to connect families in rural neighbourhoods where isolation is prevalent. We encourage our rural families to drop-in for a variety of children's early learning activities, socialization and parenting support at one of our many van stops listed below. We look forward to seeing you.

- Tuesday 9:30-11:30 a.m.—Mono Mills United Church
- Wednesday 9:30-11:30 a.m.—Alton Public Library
- Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m.—Caledon East Community Complex
- Friday 9:30-11:30 a.m.—Valleywood Community Centre



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connections is provided as a special service for the friends of the Caledon Parent-Child Centre

150 Queen Street South, Bolton, ON L7E 1E3

Tel. (905) 857-0090 [www.cp-cc.org](http://www.cp-cc.org)

For more information on any of these topics, please contact:

Teresa Colasanti (905) 857-0090 [tcolasanti@cp-cc.org](mailto:tcolasanti@cp-cc.org)

Charitable Registration Number: 12353 8050 RR 0001

The information and opinions contained in this newsletter are obtained from various sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The Caledon Parent-Child Centre and its employees and agents assume no responsibility for errors or omissions or for damages arising from the use of the published information and opinions. Readers are cautioned to consult their own professional advisors to determine the applicability of information and opinions in this newsletter in any particular circumstances. This newsletter is copyright; its reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the copyright owner is forbidden.

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide support, resources and education that strengthen families and promote the optimal development of children.

VISION STATEMENT: To be a leading member of an integrated system of community services that fosters the healthy development of children and families, resulting in a strong and socially responsive community.