

# June Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>The following activities will resume in September: Sports for Fun • Darts Night Thursday Night Out</p> <p><b>Have a safe and enjoyable summer!</b></p>					<p>1</p>  <p>10 am - 6 pm Queen Elizabeth Building Exhibition Place, Toronto</p>	<p>2</p>
3	4	 <p>World Environment Day</p>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	<p>15 16</p> <p><b>Mom's Getaway Weekend</b> (for ladies with children with special needs) Relax...Refresh...Rejuvenate 2-night stay w/2 breakfasts, 1 dinner @ Quality Hotel Parkway, St. Catharines Price \$80.00 Please call NSS member Mina McGean for more information at 905-354-8961 or email her at mm4400@cogeco.ca</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
 <p>Father's Day</p>				 <p>1st day of SUMMER</p>	 <p>9:45 a.m. Delta Monte Carlo 4735 Drummond Road Niagara Falls</p>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					 <p>9:45 a.m. Delta Monte Carlo 4735 Drummond Road Niagara Falls</p>	

**World Environment Day**, commemorated each year on June 5, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The World Environment Day (WED) slogan selected for 2007 is **Melting Ice—a Hot Topic?** In support of International Polar Year, the theme selected this year focuses on the effects that climate change is having on polar ecosystems and communities, and the ensuing consequences around the world. On this World Environment Day, let us examine the state of our environment, and let us consider carefully actions which each of us can take to address our common task of preserving all on earth. If you would like more information on World Environment Day, visit the United Nations Environment Program website at [www.unep.org/wed/2007](http://www.unep.org/wed/2007).

## NIAGARA SUPPORT SERVICES (NSS) NIAGARA TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (NTEC)

**Port Robinson Facility/  
John Brennan Building**  
120 Canby Street, Box 190  
Port Robinson, ON L0S 1K0  
Phone: 905-384-9491

**Niagara Falls Facility/  
Donald L. Reilly Centre**  
3470 Sinnicks Avenue  
Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2G4  
Phone: 905-357-5606



June 2007

## ALLIANCE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!



The old saying “time flies” was never so true as it is with the Alliance between NSS and NTEC, as we celebrate 10 years together as working partners. For those of you who were not involved at that time, or perhaps do not remember how the Alliance came to be, we would like to provide a chronological retelling of this historical endeavour.

- In early 1997, NSS Board President (Andrew Stinson) met with NTEC Chair (Gerry Higenell) and MCSS Program Supervisor (Susan Speck) to explore the possibility of sharing the services of NTEC’s Executive Director, Garry Laws.

(Continued on page 3)

### Inside this issue:

Alliance 10th Anniversary	1
OASIS Press Release	1
OASIS 2007 Conference Summary	2
Phones-for-Food Project	3
Mom's Getaway Weekend	4
World Environment Day	4
June Calendar of Events	4



### PRESS RELEASE—OASIS Encouraged By This Year's \$62.2 Million Announcement—May 2, 2007—Oakville

The funding announcement from Minister Madeleine Meilleur confirmed an allocation of \$62.2 million as part of the \$200 million promised to the Developmental Services sector in this year's Provincial Budget. These funds will enhance the support that agencies have requested from the government to recruit and retain qualified staff, and to ensure that quality services are maintained.

“The announcement allocates \$42.2 million to directly support agencies, with a 2% base increase this year, and an additional 2% in each of the next three years. This

will amount to \$181 million from the government in the year 2010/11. “This funding will help address the crisis being faced by agencies and will provide them with the ability to continue to provide quality services,” said Gerald Sutton, President of OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs). “This announcement recognizes and values the very challenging job performed every day by the people who work in the developmental services sector,” Sutton added. “There is still work to be done with the government to eliminate the wage gap with similar jobs in related fields. Without good people, good service cannot be provided”.

(Continued on page 2)



*(OASIS—Continued)*

As well as assisting with qualified staff recruitment and retention issues, the funding will allow for an increase of desperately needed specialized supports and services, and will also enable the sector to proceed with the “Transformation” initiative, designed to assist people requiring support who are currently without services.

OASIS is the largest province-wide association, with 132 members representing transfer payment agencies who employ 25,000 staff members in order to provide support to approximately 35,000 individuals with developmental disabilities. Approximately \$700 million in operating funding is provided by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to these support agencies.

**2007 CONFERENCE REPORT**

A contingent of six NSS and NTEC representatives attended the Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs Annual General Meeting & Conference from May 9-11, 2007 in Muskoka, Ontario. Judy Reid (NSS Past President/NTEC Trustee) represented both organizations in a voting capacity, Joe Mergl (NTEC Chair), Carolynne Canham (NSS President), Andrew Lewis (Chief Executive Officer), Christine Dietz (Administration Manager), and Chuck Spry (Contracts & Food Services Supervisor), also attended the three-day event.

The conference itself was very well attended, setting a new attendance record for OASIS conferences at 265. Dennis Hull acted as the Master of Ceremonies and kept everyone entertained at the welcome dinner, and Mike “Pinball” Clemons was another keynote speaker. The group took in development sessions on topics such as leadership and employee morale, efficient labour negotiations, organiza-

tional culture and fundraising, to name a few. The Muskoka hospitality was excellent and the conference organizers deserve full marks for effort and execution.

As the hosts of the 2008 OASIS Conference in Niagara, we were presented the opportunity to host the 2007 hospitality suite. The intent was to entice people to put us on their calendars for next May, and based on the feedback received from the evening, we expect a large turnout in 2008.



L-R: 2007 Hospitality Suite Hosts: Andrew Lewis, Christine Dietz, Joe Mergl, Judy Reid, Chuck Spry, Carolynne Canham

At this time, we would also like to formally acknowledge the significant work that Judy Reid performs with the OASIS Board, and specifically as a representative of NSS and NTEC for people with special needs in Niagara. This is a very time-consuming position, especially for someone who serves on a number of other boards while also working full time, and we are very appreciative of her hard work on behalf of our agencies, as well as the developmental services sector. ■

**thINK FOOD—Phones-for-Food Project**

thINK FOOD began in 2001 as a cartridge-recycling fundraiser for Toronto’s Daily Food Bank. With sponsorship support from Petro-Canada, the Ontario Association of Food Banks expanded the project across the province to the benefit of all of their member food banks. In April 2002, the Canadian Association of Food Banks led the national rollout of the project. In the spring of 2003, Purolator became a national sponsor and the collection of cell phones was initiated with the launch of Phones-for-Food.

**How it Works**

Local food banks benefit and harmful waste is diverted from the garbage everytime someone recycles their used inkjet cartridge or cell phone. A central location sorts and sells cartridges and phones to the remanufacturing industry. This industry turns them into refurbished products for consumers, and funds are raised for the local food banks through this process. The double impact of thINK FOOD/Phones-for-Food

is very meaningful. Used cell phones, depending on their age and condition, are valued at between \$2 and \$5. So, not only does the cartridge or cell phone get reused, but just one of these items can equal a carton of milk, a jar of peanut butter, or even a whole meal to someone in need!

**The Environment**

**Cell Phones**

- In Canada millions of out-of-service cell phones are stockpiled in homes and offices. Cell phone users change handsets an average of every 18 months, as the supply is driven by faster change in technology and consumer demand for additional features.
- Cell phones contain toxic elements like arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, antimony, lead and mercury. These toxins leak into the ground water and infect everything from wildlife to drinking water.

- Reusing cell phones means that expensive mineral and mining processes with harsh environmental effects can be lessened or avoided.

**Printer Cartridges**

- There are over 100 million printer cartridges used in Canada each year, and only 5-10% of these are presently recycled; 300 million laser and inkjet cartridges go to landfills every year in North America. Stacked end to end, in one year they would cover a distance of over 38,000 km—enough to circle the earth.
- Two and half ounces of oil are used to make the plastic for every inkjet cartridge produced, and the plastic used in each cartridge takes more than 1000 years to decompose.

 For more information on drop-off locations in your area, or to learn more, visit [www.think-food.com](http://www.think-food.com).

*(Alliance—from page 1)*

- The precipitating events for this adventurous undertaking were the departure planned for September 1997 of the NSS Interim Executive Director (Heather Hunter), and the recent position paper from the Ministry of Community and Social Services entitled “Making Services Work for People”, which focused on service enhancement, administrative efficiencies, streamlining, continuity and the reduction in duplication of service. Specifically, the concept was offered that these two compatible agencies serving similar and complementary populations would join forces to develop a pilot project that would see the agencies form an Alliance.
- In June 1997, a formal Alliance Agreement between the two agencies was signed for a one-year period with the approval of the Board of Directors of NSS, the Board of Trustees of NTEC, and with the full endorsement of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.
- In June 1998, NSS was notified that the District School Board of Niagara was talking about selling the M.L. Townsend Centre (now known as the Donald L. Reilly Centre) at 3470 Sinnicks Avenue. At that time, this building was being rented for the NSS administration offices, as well as day services programs. This was dismal news for NSS, as they were paying nominal rent through the school board, and it would be difficult to locate another cost-effective facility of this type in Niagara Falls.
- Straying from the chronological order for a moment, in 2000, Niagara Training & Employment Agency purchased the property now known as the Donald L. Reilly Centre from the District School Board of Niagara in order that NSS could continue to maintain and expand their services. NSS continues to lease this property from NTEC today. This was a significant milestone in the Alliance, as this location has since grown to include the Regional Respite Program, Children’s Residential Program, and Children’s Autism Program.
- On October 28, 1998, Mrs. Marion Woodcock and Mr. Gary W. Gunning (NTEC board members) joined the NSS Board of Directors, which commenced the cross-pollination of NSS and NTEC board members. The NTEC bylaws had to be amended in order to add new board members, and on April 1, 1999, Mrs. Beverly



DONALD L. REILLY CENTRE, NIAGARA FALLS

Allan and Mr. Andrew Stinson (NSS board members) joined the NTEC Board of Trustees. This practice of dual board members has remained since that time; currently, there are four board members with a seat on both boards.

- On November 24, 1998, the first meeting of the Joint Board Alliance Committee was held, comprised of representatives from both boards. This invaluable committee still exists today; in fact, three of the original members remain, namely Mr. Gary W. Gunning, Mr. Bill McMullan, and Mr. Joe Mergl.
- On January 27, 1999 and February 4, 1999 respectively, the NSS Board of Directors and NTEC Board of Trustees approved the NSS-NTEC Alliance Vision and Mission Statement, and Alliance Principle & Values document duly signed by then NSS President, Mr. Andrew Stinson, and NTEC Chair, Mr. Don Reilly (now deceased).
- In 2002, we hosted the official opening of the NTEC Regional Respite Program, which was funded through NTEC and managed by NSS. This program continues to flourish and is well known in the Niagara Region. Also in 2002, NTEC purchased a home in Port Robinson, which was subsequently leased to NSS to accommodate individuals in their service who required specialized staff support. Today, NSS continues to lease this home from NTEC for the Canby Children’s Residence.



CANBY CHILDREN’S RESIDENCE, PORT ROBINSON

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the forethought of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, as well as the strength, perseverance and hard work of our dedicated employees to such a daunting enterprise. To mark this milestone in our agencies’ history, we are in the process of devising the first combined NSS and NTEC brochure, which we will forward to you soon in a future mailing.

The symbiotic relationship that has grown between these two like-minded and courageous agencies is certainly something to be proud of. We have evolved considerably since those early discussions ten years ago, and we look forward to many more years of shared and purposeful service. ■

Christine Dietz  
Administration Manager