

# Shannon Lukacs Adult Support Coordinator, Niagara Chapter

#### **LB Brown**

Family Support Coordinator Hamilton, Niagara & Brant regions

#### **Autism Ontario**

**Vision**: Acceptance and opportunities for all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Mission**: To ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

#### **Autism Ontario**

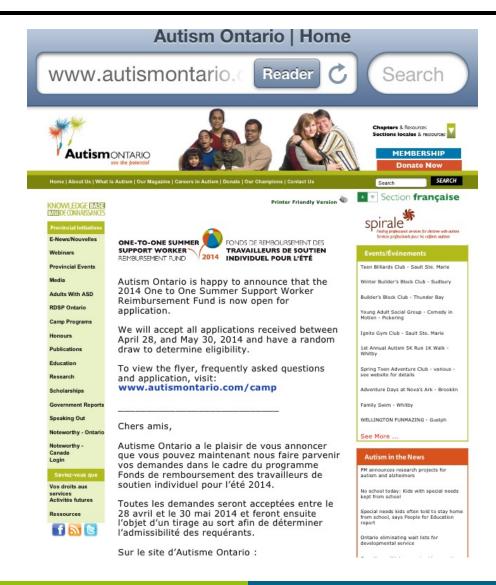
#### **Key Areas of Focus**

- Advocacy and Support
- Research
- Best Practices
- Government Relations
- Public Awareness
- Governance

#### Who we are?

- Autism Ontario has up to 24 regional chapters
- The organization is primarily supported and lead by parents and others that volunteer their time, talents and energy to help improve the lives of children, teens and adults with autism
- Each chapter is governed by the provincial Board of Directors and by a local Chapter Leadership Council

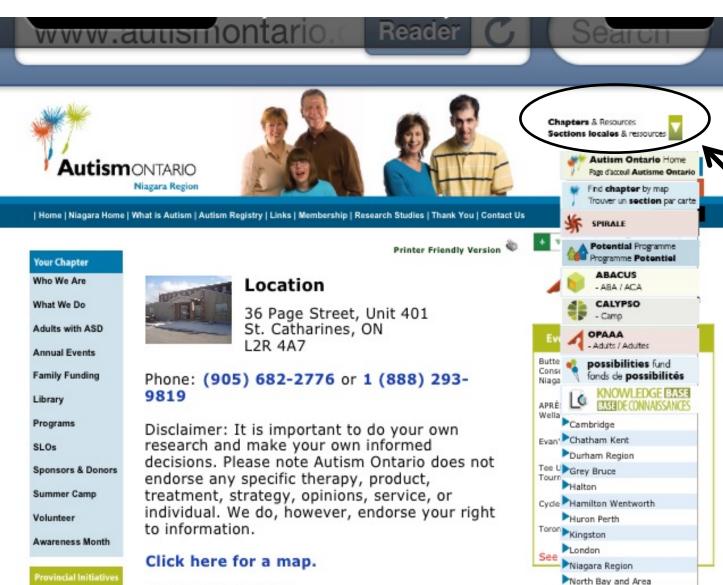
#### www.autismontario.com



#### **Autism Ontario Website**

- Membership Information & Registration
- Sign up for Provincial e-news
- Resources for Adults with ASD
- Access to Autism Ontario Publications
- Funding Information
- Latest News & Events throughout the province
- Links to local Chapters

#### How to access on-line resources?



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

North Halton Ottawa

Posted May 21, 2013

E-News/Nouvelles

Webinars

#### **SPIRALE**

www.autismontario.com/spirale



 Designed to help Ontario parents find professional services for their child or youth with ASD

 Professional Services include: Dentists, ECE's, Physiotherapists, OT's, Psychologists, Social Workers, Teachers, and more!

#### **ABACUS**

www.abacuslist.ca



A free directory for parents seeking ABA services

 Provides information on ABA, how to identify a qualified provider, parents resources, and helpful checklists to assist families in choosing a provider

#### **CALYPSO**

www.autismontario.com/calypso

 Specialized resource designed to help Ontario parents find the right camp or camp program for their child or youth with ASD.



# KNOWLEDGE BASE DE CONNAISSANCES

#### **Knowledge Base**

www.autismontario.com/knowledgebase

- On-line, searchable database, a series of brief, easy-to-understand documents that are relevant to the lives of youth and adults on the autism spectrum and their families
- Available in both French and English

### What is the Potential Programme?

A unique service from Autism Ontario designed to directly support all Ontario families, parents and children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).



 ASD Information - Our qualified staff are a rich resource for information on ASD, health and local social service providers

 Access to ASD Experts - Via speaker events and workshops related to ASD

#### **Family Support (Parent Support Groups)**

- An opportunity for parents to meet other parents in an informal, relaxed atmosphere to discus autism and related issues.
- Meetings offer peer-to-peer support for parents/guardians and caregivers, and offers special guests and expert speakers.

## Parent Support Groups provide the opportunity for parents to:

- Get to know other parents and caregivers
- Understand how to navigate the education system
- Share experiences and discuss common concerns
- Share successful strategies for common issues/goals
- Find out what is happening in the autism community

#### Social Learning Opportunities (SLOs)

- Recreational activities for individuals with ASD and their families
- Events geared towards people with ASD
- Opportunity to connect with other individuals with ASD and their families
- Opportunity to practice social skills
- Networking/support opportunity for parents
- Non-judgmental and safe environment

#### Social Learning Opportunities (SLOs)

#### **Examples:**

- Swimming
- Movies
- Mad Science
- Bowling
- Waterparks

- Cooking Classes
- Gymnastic Classes
- Legoland
- Blue Jays
- Spa days

- Connect to Resources in the Community - Staff will help provide you with support by establishing community partnerships
- Family Support Coordinator role:
  - Work with the families to ensure that they are connected to services in the community
  - Have the resources they are looking for
  - Assist them if they are struggling with any services in the area.

### **Potential Programme contacts**

#### Hamilton, Niagara & Brant region

Christina Beauchamp, Community Events
 Coordinator - <a href="mailto:christina@autismontario.com">christina@autismontario.com</a>

 Chantal Mudahogora, French Community Events Coordinator chantal@autismontario.com

### The Niagara Region Chapter

The Niagara Region Chapter is your local chapter supporting families and individuals with resources, support systems, and assistance for those affected by ASD.

Niagara Region

### The Niagara Region Chapter

**Autism Ontario – Niagara Region** is one of many Autism Ontario Chapters across the province.

We support communities from Grimsby to Fort Erie by providing support systems that improve the lives of individuals impacted by autism



### The Niagara Region Chapter

Autism Ontario – Niagara 36 Page St. Catharines, ON 905-682-2776

www.autismontario.com/niagara



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#### Autism Ontario | niagarahome

www.autismontario.c

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Chapters & Resources Sections locales & ressources



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SEARCH

#### Your Chapter

Who We Are

What We Do

Adults with ASD

Annual Events

**Family Funding** 

Library

Programs

SI Os

Sponsors & Donors

Summer Camp

Volunteer

Awareness Month

E-News/Nouvelles

Webinars



#### Location

36 Page Street, Unit 401 St. Catharines, ON L2R 4A7

Phone: (905) 682-2776 or 1 (888) 293-9819

Disclaimer: It is important to do your own research and make your own informed decisions. Please note Autism Ontario does not endorse any specific therapy, product, treatment, strategy, opinions, service, or individual. We do, however, endorse your right to information.

Click here for a map.

Posted May 21, 2013



**UPDATES to THIRD-PARTY** 



Services professionels pour les enfants carbaes

#### Events/Événements

Butterfly Conservatory Niagara/Sortie au Conservatoire de papillons à Niagara -Niagara Falls

APRÈS-MIDI CINÉMA EN FRANÇAIS -Welland, Ont.

Evan's Ride - Smithville

Tee Up For Autism - Charity Golf Tournament - Niagara Falls

Cycle for Autism - Welland

See More ...



We offer a number of vital programs and services that work to support an individual's meaningful life and help to build long-term skill development and successful independence.

See the potential...

- ASD Resource Library (over 800 titles available to borrow and includes books, educational resources, workbooks, reports, children's books, CDs and DVDs)
- Bursary programs
- Programs
- Adult Support Services and Programs

#### **Family Bursary**

The Niagara Region Chapter offers two bursary programs designed to compensate persons with ASD and their families for the additional costs they incur to promote quality of life and inclusion in our community.

#### **Family Bursary**

#### The two bursary programs are:

- 1. The Family Funding Bursary is a reimbursement program designed to compensate families for costs they incur to involve their child or youth family member with ASD in social learning and recreational activities.
- 2. The Adult Education and Training Bursary is a reimbursement program designed to compensate teens and adults (age 16+) with ASD for costs they incur in pursuing educational and training opportunities.

#### **Programs**

- Summer Camp
- -ASD Community Group
- -ASD Recreation Group
- -HFA Activity Group
- -Sibling Support Group

- -Teen Camp
- -Builder's Club
- -Girls Only Group
- -Teen Community Group

#### **Adult Support Services and Programs**

The Adult Support Coordinator provides information, support and referrals to adults living with ASD and their families with services including:

- Employment
- Accessing government services and funding (ODSP, DSO, RDSP)
- School issues (accommodations and strategies to support student success)
- Day Programming/Recreation and Leisure
- Coping strategies
- Health issues depression, anxiety, aggression
- Volunteer opportunities
- Workshops and information sessions (ex. Internet Safety, Personal Hygiene and Self Care)
- Transitioning youth into adulthood
- Diagnosis

#### **Adult Working Groups**

- We are currently working to address issues facing Adults on the autism spectrum.
   Through a grant from the Fowler Family Foundation, Autism Ontario Niagara has been able to examine the issues, gaps in services and funding that are faced by families and adult individuals living with an ASD diagnosis.
- Following a community consultation day that brought together over 40 community partners, parents and self-advocates, Autism Ontario - Niagara Chapter has taken the lead in establishing working committees to examine and address the core themes that arose from that day.
- Committees include:

Housing

**Transition Planning** 

Community Awareness & Education

Day Programming/Recreatuon & Leisure

#### **Adult Programs**

#### **ASD Social Club**

This club is for adults aged 18 + diagnosed with High Functioning Autism/Aspergers who do not require 1:1 support. Events are organized each month with the goal of having adults with autism or Aspergers meet fellow members of their community and have fun taking part in events tailored to their interests.

Autism Ontario - Niagara Region Chapter, in partnership with the Opening Doors for Adults with ASD (ODFAWA) provincial program, supports and recognizes the ASD Social Club.

#### **Up-Coming Events:**

Evan's Ride – Sunday, May 25, 2014 – Smithville

Tee Up for Autism – Friday, May 30

Cycle for Autism- Sunday, June 21- Merritt Island, Welland

#### **THANK-YOU!!**

# Questions?