

# Mary Centre

## 20 years

CELEBRATING DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES

# NEWSLETTER



## Nasim's Birthday Bash

Nasim Mitha resides at Mary Centre's Whitecap Boulevard location. She has reached another milestone in her life by celebrating her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2009 with family and friends.

Her happiness could not be contained when she cut into her beautiful cake. The Whitecap Staff made Nasim's day very special by throwing a party for her that was well attended by residents of our Leyton and Redcastle homes. Nasim's family also came to celebrate with her.

At Nasim's request she was taken to the Mandarin Restaurant for lunch by the Staff and other residents. Her gifts delighted her and her celebration did not stop there when she joined her family for lunch at an Indian Restaurant for more celebrations.

*by Manu Verma*



*"Celebrating Developmental Challenges"*

## Meet Donald Wright

Donald moved into one of Mary Centre's Residential Programs on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 as a permanent resident. Until that time he lived at home with his mother until she was no longer able to care for him.

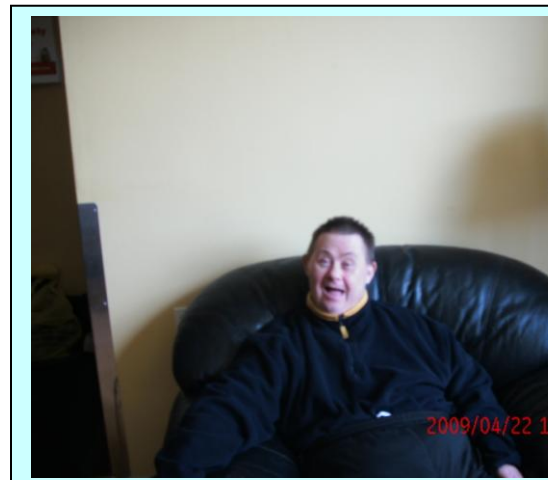
Respite programs became available to Donald within Toronto for a short time and he attended Employment Training Services. Donald has since retired and is now living permanently at our Whitecap residence.

He was born in Italy and speaks English and understands Italian. Being a very sociable individual, Donald enjoys meeting people striking up a conversation with anyone he comes across.

He attends church every Sunday where he really loves to sing and on Mondays he participates in a craft program.

Donald has special passion for paper, pen and pencils and loves to write letters. He has a great sense of humour and loves to make people laugh. He is a very caring individual and the staff and residents of Mary Centre are very happy to have him living with them.

*by Manu Verma*



### Smile Corner

“A man went to visit a friend and was amazed to find him playing chess with his dog. He watched the game in astonishment for a while. “I can hardly believe my eyes!” he exclaimed. “That’s the smartest dog I’ve ever seen.”

“Nah, he’s not so smart,” the friend replied. “I’ve beaten him three games out of five.”

## Tenth Anniversary Tournament Raises \$23,686.13

Ten years ago, board member Stan Wieczorek pushed, prodded, cajoled and begged to launch the very first Mary Centre golf tournament as a fundraiser for his favourite cause. A few years later Stan passed away but his efforts are still paying off. And each year Stanley's Mug is proudly presented to the winning team.

On this past May 12th, Stan was almost certainly responsible for the brilliant sunshine and warmth that shone upon the 104 golfers at Club-link's Glencairn course. The winning team of Mike Reindeers, Fred Fairs and Bruce Caplan walked away with The Mug which was presented by Stan's widow Nora, as pictured on the right.

Other winners were Margaret Darragh and Peter Burke for closest to the pin. Dena Oberman and Chris Broadbent were the longest drivers. Ron Matheson and Chris Mathews were the winners of the Putting Contest and they generously donated it back to Mary Centre. The tournament and silent auction made a profit of \$23,686.13. As usual, this money will go directly to our clients and their caregivers to help with expenses not covered by government grants.

Thanks to all of the volunteers and the tournament participants for a very special day!

**by Bruce McCallum**



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 20, 2009

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass  
St. Margarets of Scotland Catholic Church

November 5, 2009

13th Annual Fundraiser  
Famous People Players Dinner Theatre

May 11, 2010

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament  
Rattlesnake Golf Club, Milton

For information contact Marion Patterson at (416) 630-5533 or [mpatterson@marycentre.com](mailto:mpatterson@marycentre.com)

## When I Met Keith

Keith is an intriguing individual. On a recent visit to Redcastle House, Keith greeted me with a charming smile, a handshake and asked me how I was doing. I was struck by the fact that while he faces enormous physical and developmental challenges, he made the effort to make me feel comfortable.

Keith has been a resident since 1991. Born in Nova Scotia, he contracted meningitis in childhood that affected him neurologically. He has a tendency to go back in time to earlier days and often confuses people he meets in the present with those from the past. His language can be colourful but one only has to be with him for a few minutes to realize that it is a quirk of his disability and that Keith is a gentle soul.

When he first came to Redcastle, he used a walker but now is confined to a wheelchair. His significant weight increase has led to new physical challenges. Yet, Keith seems to accept his disabilities easily and, in this way, is a model for those of us who complain about the annoyances and challenges of everyday life. While most of us are in a rush to get from one place to another, Keith took his time using his feet to move him in his wheelchair to where he wanted to go. He was happy in the moment and eventually reached his destination – a chair by the living room window where he could watch the cars outside. Cars seem to be his passion.

Meeting Keith made me realize that we are all God's children and that sometimes those with the greatest challenges are the most accepting of God's gifts.

*by Bev Simpson*

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*“Celebrating Developmental Challenges”*