

Heads Up!

Winter 2010



A bi-annual newsletter from Brain Injury Services and STEP UP! ABI Recovery.

Brain Injury Services awarded unconditional accreditation!

Brain Injury Services has been awarded unconditional accreditation by Accreditation Canada for the period of 2009 to 2012. Accreditation Canada completed a three day site visit in September 2009 and their report indicated that Brain Injury Services complied with virtually all of the performance standards set by Accreditation Canada.

"I am proud to be able to share this with our staff, clients, families and our community" said Jan Narduzzi, executive director, Brain Injury Services. "We've worked so hard, agency wide, to ensure best practices are the norm not the exception. Our clients deserve this and it's very rewarding to be recognized for the great work the staff do."



ACCREDITATION CANADA
AGRÉMENT CANADA



John Reesor Centre celebrates 20th Anniversary

June 2009 marked the 20th Anniversary of the John Reesor Centre (JRC). The JRC is home to six adults living with the effects of an acquired brain injury. Situated in a mature neighborhood in Hamilton, clients living at the JRC access the amenities of community living with staff support.

Peter Reesor, Gwynneth Simpson and David Simpson, brother, sister and brother in law to John Reesor respectively, attended the festivities.

John Reesor was a founding member of the board of directors and was instrumental in facilitating the building phase of the residence.

"Thanks to the dedicated board of directors, including John Reesor, Brain Injury Services was able to open the doors of our first 24 hour residential service" says Laurie Graham, Manager Residential Services. "The JRC is truly home to our clients and with the support of our staff they are able to continue their rehabilitation in the community, where it is most functional and rewarding."



St. Catharines Residences open with support of Ravenda Homes

Brain Injury Services is proud to announce the opening of two new residential services in St. Catharines. With the support of Ravenda Homes Inc. Brain Injury Services amalgamated four former residences in the Niagara region and opened two new barrier free homes in June 2009.

“Ravenda House” and “Kenny Place” are completely accessible homes. Both homes accommodate up to ten individuals and are designed to provide increased independence in activities of daily living through barrier free design.

Ravenda House is located in an established neighborhood which facilitates access to community amenities such as public transportation, shopping, vocational and recreational activities.

Kenny Place is located on a quiet, one acre property which provides an appropriate environment for rehabilitation. This residence is also close to city amenities and hosts group activities for all Brain Injury Services clients in the Niagara region.

An open house was held on November 26, 2009 for community partners and neighbours to formally open the residence and thank Ravenda Homes Inc. for their support. Without the support of John Ravenda, the opportunity to provide these services would not be possible. Staff and clients were on hand to personally thank John Ravenda and his staff.



Campden Heights Residential Service offers complex behavioural care



Brain Injury Services received funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for a new residential service geared to individuals with complex cognitive and behavioural challenges.

The new residential service is located on the Niagara escarpment on a sprawling country property with ready access to recreational facilities including a pool.

In early November 2009, two individuals moved into the home. One to one staffing ratios allow for intensive rehabilitation support for individuals requiring individualized cognitive behavioural programming.

“We are delighted to have the opportunity to provide services to these individuals with complex needs in the community”, said Jan Narduzzi, executive director. “Transitioning these individuals to the community will free up acute rehabilitation beds for other individuals who need them the most.”

There will be an Open House at Campden Heights on Thursday January 28, 2010 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Please email info.news@braininjuryservices.com for further details.



Putting It All Together: Managing the Individual with Complex Care Needs

Brain Injury Services is holding an interactive one-day workshop on February 10, 2010 that will feature the following presentations:

ABI and Complex Behaviours
Presenter: Dr. Bruce Linder, Psychologist (Clinical Director, Brain Injury Services)

Guiding the CAT File and Preparing for Settlement
Presenter: Mr. Michael Winward (Mackesy Smye, LLP)

Future Care Reports for the Client with Complex Care Needs
Presenter: Carol Bierbrier & Associates

Structured Settlements and Catastrophic Claims
Presenter: Mr. Barry Chobotar, B. Comm., LLP; Henderson Structured Settlements

For more information visit www.braininjuryservices.com

Brain Injury Services receives OBIA Corporate Fellowship Award

Brain Injury Services is the proud recipient of the 2009 Corporate Fellowship Award from the Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA). Presented by John Kumpf, executive director of OBIA, the award recognized Brain Injury Services as making a significant contribution in the provision of services for those who are living with the effects of an acquired brain injury.

"To be recognized by OBIA, a provincial advocacy group, is very rewarding" says Robert Beres, president of the board of directors of Brain Injury Services. "We seek out opportunities to interact with our community partners and collaborate. To have this recognized as a unique initiative is quite a compliment."

Community Lunch and Learns

In July 2009 Rob Deutschmann and Claire Wilkinson presented the proposed changes to the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule to community partners. Over forty professionals attended the session which outlined the recommended changes and the potential impact on the rehabilitation and legal processes specifically related to individuals with non-catastrophic injuries.

Dr. Bruce Linder, clinical director of Brain Injury Services spoke to community partners in November 2009. Dr. Linder shared the results of a research study completed by Brain Injury Services and students from the McMaster University Department of Psychology. The study compared parenting styles as they relate to caregiver styles. Results suggest that how an individual was parented has more impact on caregiver styles than how they parent. A copy of the results can be found on the Brain Injury Services website at www.braininjuryservices.com.

In December 2009, technology and rehabilitation were the topic of a lunch and learn at Brain Injury Services main office. Staff from Brain Injury Services shared results of a study focused on the use of the Wii as a rehabilitation tool. Xperiential Learning representatives were also on site to demonstrate the 'Virtual Room' as a key component in ABI rehabilitation. For more information visit the Brain Injury Services website at www.braininjuryservices.com.

3rd Annual Brain Injury Services Foundation Fundraiser a success

Thanks to the Brain Injury Services Foundation for hosting their 3rd annual silent auction fundraiser on November 16, 2009. The event raised nearly \$10,000.00 which will go towards the purchase of a new wheelchair accessible van. The purchase of the van will facilitate community access and integration for clients at our residential services.

"We are so appreciative for the ongoing support of our sponsors, and community," said John Ormond, president of the foundation. "The response to our request for support was overwhelming and allows the foundation to contribute to activities of Brain Injury Services' clients."

Thanks to our major sponsors Wypferle Law and Samuel, Son & Co., Limited. A special thanks goes to Via Rail for their rail passes to Quebec City.

Directors on the foundation board include John Ormond, Jibrán Imtiaz, Nicola Heinig, Antonella Armstrong, Gail Jackson, and Lynn Hewitt.



Heads Up! is published twice a year by
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