

Spring 2012



# The Epilepsy & Seizure Disorder Resource Centre Of Southeastern Ontario

## Newsletter

S  
E  
I  
Z  
U  
R  
E  
T  
H  
E  
D  
A  
Y

100 Stuart Street, Kingston Ontario K7L2V6 ~ Phone: (613)542-6222 ~ Fax: (613) 548-4162  
[admin@epilepsyresource.org](mailto:admin@epilepsyresource.org) ~ [www.epilepsyresource.org](http://www.epilepsyresource.org)

### Purple Day—March 26th

Purple Day is an international effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy. Every year on March 26<sup>th</sup>, people around the world are invited to wear purple in support of epilepsy awareness.

Purple Day began in 2008 with a 9 year old girl, Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, who wanted to promote epilepsy awareness around the world. Cassidy chose the colour purple because the international colour for epilepsy is lavender. The lavender flower is also often associated with solitude, which is representative of the feelings of isolation many people affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders often feel.

Approximately 300,000 Canadians, and 50 million people around the world are affected by epilepsy. Please help promote awareness in our community by wearing purple on March 26th and by joining us in fun-filled events. Please see Page 2 for details of our events.

For more information on Purple Day, please visit the official Purple Day website at [www.purpleday.org](http://www.purpleday.org)



### THE EPILEPSY RESOURCE CENTRE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As President of the Board I would like to take the opportunity to introduce Susan Harrison as the Executive Director of the organization. Susan joined us at the beginning of April 2011 with the understanding that she was coming aboard to provide front-line service to clients. She found herself in the centre of a very difficult situation where she was suddenly the sole staff member responsible for all facets of the operation. Over the past ten months, Susan has handled the multitude of complex tasks entailed in bringing the organization back to a high level of service and stability with exceptional skill, and earned both the admiration and trust of the board. We were thrilled when she agreed to take on the role of Executive Director and we support her to the fullest degree, trusting in both her integrity and her skill as a new manager and as a service provider to our clients. We on the Board wish to say thank you and welcome to Susan and trust that our ongoing relationship will be positive for everyone.



United Way  
Member Agency

Jim Docherty  
Board President

# Celebrate Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness



## Events

### **Purple Manicures:**

Get ready for Purple Day by enjoying **FREE** purple mini-manicures at the Cataraqui Mall.

**Date:** Saturday, March 24th, 2012

**Time:** 9:30am to 6:00pm: mini-manicures available from 10am to 3pm

**Location:** Cataraqui Mall, 945 Gardiners Road, Kingston

### **Purple Day, March 26th:**

Show your support for epilepsy by wearing purple on March 26th. Encourage your co-workers, friends, and family to wear purple and help spread the awareness of epilepsy in our community.

### **Arbonne presents Party with a Purpose:**

On March 26th, join us at this fundraiser, hosted by Jordan Bell, and purchase something special from Arbonne Skin Care and Cosmetics. All proceeds will be donated to the Epilepsy Resource Centre and assist in supporting epilepsy awareness in our community.

**Date:** Monday, March 26th, 2012

**Time:** 4:00pm to 8:00pm

**Location:** Isabel Turner Library, across from the Cataraqui Mall

**For more information about Purple Day and the events that we are hosting, please contact us directly or visit our website.**



**The Epilepsy & Seizure Disorder Resource Centre**

100 Stuart Street Kingston Ontario K7L 2V6

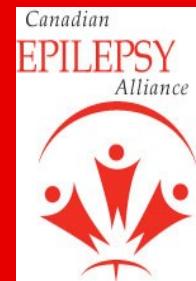
Phone: (613) 542-6222 ~ Fax: (613) 548-4162

[www.epilepsyresource.org](http://www.epilepsyresource.org) ~ [admin@epilepsyresource.org](mailto:admin@epilepsyresource.org)

## Upcoming Event

### A Night at the Theatre in Support of the Epilepsy Resource Centre

The Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Resource Centre is selling tickets to a **Neil Simon play**, Rose's Dilemma.



**Date:** April 11, 2012

**Time:** 8:00pm

**Location:** Domino Theatre, 42 Church Street

**Cost:** \$20.00 per Ticket

Refreshments will be provided following the performance.

Rose's Dilemma is a comedy about a celebrated playwright who hasn't written anything since the death of her lover, and the money is running out. Help is offered to her from beyond the grave by her former lover and literary giant, Walsh. Rose has, or imagines she has, long conversations with him - and more, much to her young protégée Arlene's embarrassment. Walsh's answer to Rose's financial dilemma is that she should complete his last, unfinished novel with the aid of a young novelist. This play is considered one of the best by America's premier comic playwright.

Come out and enjoy a night at the theatre while supporting The Epilepsy Resource Centre. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact the office at (613) 542-6222 or by email at [admin@epilepsyresource.org](mailto:admin@epilepsyresource.org).

## Thanks to Our Local Politicians!

We would like to thank both Mr. Ted Hsu, MP (Kingston and the Islands), and Mr. Steve Clark, MPP (Leeds and Grenville) for recently speaking about epilepsy in the House of Commons, and the Ontario Legislature, respectively.

Mr. Hsu spoke eloquently in support of Bill C-278, the Purple Day Act, which will recognize March 26 as the "official" day for Epilepsy Awareness in Canada. The Purple Day Act has now passed third reading in the House of Commons, and has moved to the Senate.

On March 6th, epilepsy organizations across Ontario, led by Epilepsy Ontario and Epilepsy Cure Initiative, launched Epilepsy Awareness Month by hosting Epilepsy Action Day at Queen's Park. Members from the epilepsy community met with MPPs to discuss key challenges facing the 140,000 Ontarians living with the disorder. Mr. Clark took time to meet with Susan Harrison, our Executive Director, and with representatives from Epilepsy Ottawa at this action day, and he then spoke in the Ontario Legislature of the concerns raised in our meeting.

We thank them both for their support in helping raise epilepsy awareness at the provincial and national levels.

## OBCL Scholarships

### **Are you a student living with epilepsy?**

The OBCL Epilepsy Scholarship Awards offer up to 10, \$1,000 scholarships to students across Ontario, who are living with epilepsy, and who are continuing their studies in post-secondary education. Applications can be found at <http://epilepsyontario.org/?p=167>. Deadline is May 1, 2012.

If you plan to apply, please contact our office so we can support you in your application.



# What About The Belleville Office...

## Belleville Office Closure

With deep regret, we closed the doors of the Epilepsy Resource Centre's Belleville outreach office (serving Quinte, Hastings, and Prince Edward County) on August 31, 2011. We reached this difficult decision as we no longer had the financial resources to maintain an outreach office in Belleville.

We understand the importance of having local, accessible support services. It is our goal to secure more stable funding, and then offer services once more in the Quinte area.

All support services that were available at our Belleville office will continue to be offered through our Kingston office. The Kingston office is open Monday to Thursday, from 10am to 4pm. Support and information can also be found on the Epilepsy Resource Centre Facebook page, *Epilepsy Kingston*. Please contact us should we be able to offer you any support or assistance, at (613) 542-6222 or admin@epilepsyresource.org.

## New Ontario Photo Card

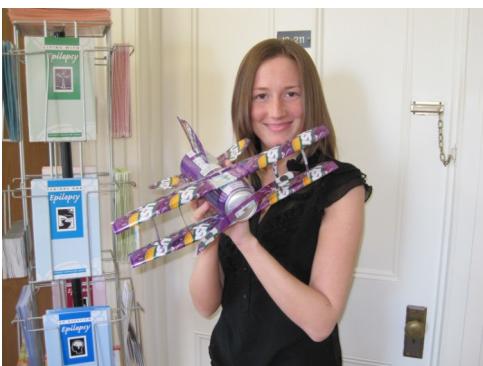
The Ontario Government has developed a new photo card as a convenient alternative from a driver's licence for any non-driver to use. For individuals with epilepsy who are unable to drive, this card can replace having to carry a passport or birth certificate as official identification. This card makes it easier to obtain credit cards, travel on domestic flights, open a bank account, cash a cheque, return merchandise to a store, make hotel reservations, rent games and movies and perform activities that require official photo identification. This new card will be recognized as an official government-issued identification for Ontario residents 16 years of age or older who do not drive.



The new Photo ID Card

There are 21 Service Ontario centre locations in Ontario where you can go to apply for the photo card.

To find out more information about this new identification card and locations of where to apply, please visit [www.serviceontario.ca/findservices](http://www.serviceontario.ca/findservices) and search for "New Ontario Photo ID card".



## Purple Planes

The Epilepsy Resource Centre would like to let everyone know that we are collecting purple pop cans for our Purple Planes. We have a talented client who has generously offered his time to create these wonderful planes to share with children who are affected by epilepsy. All he needs is purple pop cans.

If you are a fan of purple pop (ex. Grape Crush), instead of recycling your pop cans, we would ask you to bring us your purple cans which can be made into these awesome purple planes.

## 2011 GLAD Days Wrap-Up

Our annual GLAD Days event held on August 17-21, 2011, was a huge success with close to \$4000 being raised for the Epilepsy Resource Centre programming and resources!

Twenty-five local businesses and organizations came together ordering over 400 bunches of Gladiolas, and the community support was also incredible, with 300 bunches being sold across seven locations.

The gorgeous three foot tall stems, grown locally at Green Acres in Smiths Falls, last upwards of one month, reminding people daily about epilepsy and the resources provided by the centre.

The Epilepsy Resource Centre would like to extend special thanks to all those who made the event possible! Graham Weatherby of the Royal Kingston Curling Club for keeping our Glads cool. The Ostermanns for coordinating sales in Amherstview, plus Brad Allen, Marilyn Garrett, Scott Griffin, Cory Green, Meaghan Tyrell, Myrna Darling, Andrew Harrison, Ian Miller, Jessica Gies, Amy Hanes, Wendy Douey, and Joey Edmiston for volunteering their time towards gladiola deliveries, sales and assistance. We would also like to extend a warm thank you to Food Basics on Barrack St., St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Hotel Dieu Hospital, Foodland in Amherstview, Empire Life Financial, and the Kingston Antiques Market for allowing on-site sales of Gladiolas.

We look forward to having another successful year in 2012!

By Victoria Freeman, Glad Days summer student



Victoria and Susan with the Glads



Glad Days Booth at Hotel Dieu Hospital with our wonderful Glad Day Volunteers!

## Call for New Board Members

The Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Resource Centre is looking for new members to join our Board of Directors. If you are interesting in volunteering on our board and would like more information, please contact Susan Harrison by phone at (613) 542-6222 or by email at susanharrison@epilepsyresource.org.

## Call for Volunteers

The Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Resource Centre is looking for general volunteers for our organization. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to assist with fundraising events, educational presentations and community events.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with us, please visit our website, [www.epilepsyresource.org](http://www.epilepsyresource.org), to download our volunteer form. Once completed, it can be submitted by email to susanharrison@epilepsyresource.org, by fax at (613) 548-4162 or in person at our office at 100 Stuart Street, Kingston, Ontario.

### THE EPILEPSY AND SEIZURE DISORDER RESOURCE CENTRE

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Docherty - Board President  
Jason Field - Vice President  
Kim McFarlane - Secretary  
Peggy Davidson - Director at Large  
Frances Berry - Director at Large  
Dr. Athen MacDonald—Director at Large

#### STAFF

Susan Harrison - Executive Director  
Hanna Kitchingman - Administrative Coordinator

*New Updates Coming Soon...*

Watch for our newly redesigned website and Facebook page face-lift coming soon!

## Memberships and Donations

Please send this form along with your cheque or credit card payment to:  
**Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Resource Centre of South Eastern Ontario**

**100 Stuart Street  
Kingston, ON  
K7L 2V6**

I would like to make a contribution to the Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Resource Centre of South Eastern Ontario in the amount of:

\$25  \$40  \$50  \$75  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment:  Cheque  VISA  Mastercard

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Tax receipts provided for all donations*

I would like to purchase a \_\_\_\_\_ year membership in the amount of \$10/year to the Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Resource Centre of South Eastern Ontario

Name: \_\_\_\_\_