

Newsletter

"Bereaved, helping the bereaved to learn to live with grief"



June 25th, 2011

A Message from the Board of Directors

Dear Members and Friends of BFO-Durham Region,

There have been some changes to the Board of Directors. Gary Goswell has been our Chair of the Board for 9 years now, and in January decided to step down from that position. Gary's dedication to BFO-Durham is well known and he has served our organization for many years in memory of his beloved daughter Kelly. Gary managed to lead BFO-Durham in a warm, friendly manner that all of us as bereaved parents respected and enjoyed. Gary is continuing to volunteer as a consultant to the Board and remains a loved, respected and valued member of BFO-Durham.

I accepted the role of Chair of the Board in February and I hope the caring, warm nature of BFO-Durham continues for years to come. I have been a Director of the Board for 9 years and volunteer in memory of my daughter

Leah Speare. We are fortunate to have had three new people join the Board; Joyce Schneider, Jane Carter and Micheline Ball.

All of our BFO-Durham Board members are bereaved volunteers who dedicate at least 1-3 hours a week to BFO. Meeting once a month to discuss such topics as future program development, financial overviews and up and coming event status, Board members also find themselves actively involved in other areas of the organization from facilitating "one on one's" to assisting in Family Support Nights. This is a managing board that works closely with the Executive Director providing direction and expertise. As there have been some recent additions to the Board, so we thought it would be helpful to let you know who we are.

Here are the current members of our Board of Directors, 2011:

Cheryl Cullis, Chair

Louise O'Donnell, Co-Chair

Marian Rehr, Director/Treasurer

Margaret Fortune, Director

Joyce Schneider, Director

Jane Carter, Director

Micheline Ball, Director/ Secretary

On behalf of your Board of Directors, I hope you find some solace in BFO-Durham as you navigate the difficult path of grief.

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl Cullis, Chair, Board of Directors, BFO-Durham

Bereaved Families
of Ontario
Durham Region

*An Association of
Families who have lost a child
through death.*

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Margaret Devecseri
- Executive Director -

Cheryl Cullis
- Board Chair -

Meet our New Executive Director

My name is Margaret Devecseri. I recently joined Bereaved Families of Ontario Durham Region with a position as Executive Director.

I am honoured to be able to be a part of such an important non-profit organization with volunteers who so tirelessly assist and comfort parents within our community who have lost a child through death.

As a bereaved mother, I understand the importance of the support and services that are being offered within this organization by our volunteers to the community members struggling to cope with such a tragic loss in their lives.

It is important to know that there are other bereaved parents within the community that understand, empathize and want to help others.

I look forward to watching Bereaved Families of Ontario Durham Region flourish through our tireless vol-

unteers, outreach and fundraising so that we may continue to assist bereaved parents of our community and help the healing process begin.

I would like to extend my special thank you to our board members and all the dedicated volunteers for their warm welcome and endless help.

I would also like to welcome bereaved parents to our organization, and encourage you to trust us to comfort and support you with your grief in your greatest time of need.

My warmest regards and may God bless you all.

Margaret Devecseri
Executive Director

Bereaved Families of Ontario
Durham Region

Our Co-op Student Bids Farewell

My 14 weeks at Bereaved Families of Ontario-Durham Region has truly been an unforgettable experience. Not only was I able to work with wonderful staff and volunteers, but I was able to apply the skills and knowledge I have learnt from school in a real life environment. Working on the walk was something I really took to heart. I am very grateful for the opportunity I had to work for such a special organization. Even though I am not a bereaved parent myself, I truly look up to all of you. You are all such strong, loving people who are able to carry on after such a terrible time. One thing I know for sure is that all of your children are watching over you extremely proud. Therefore, I leave you with my deepest thanks as you have touched my heart, and I wish you all the very best.

Laryssa Hulcio

2011 Walk to Remember

Families came together on Sunday, March 6, 2011 to walk in memory of their lost loved ones for Bereaved Families of Ontario-Durham Region's annual Walk to Remember event at the Five Points Mall in Oshawa, Ont. Thanks to everyone's help, the walk was a great success! This year, Bereaved Families of Ontario-Durham Region raised over \$9,000, which will help maintain our free programs and services for families across the region.

The morning began with opening remarks by Sharon Sears, followed with a poem read by Laryssa Hulcio, called "Walk to Remember." Next was an energetic warm-up by Donna Davidson to kick things off. During the walk, we were entertained with melodic tunes by the Charles Street Band and Catherine Meunier, a harpist. Families and friends were able to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere while they shared memories and smiles with loved ones.

This year's memory banner was graciously donated by the Menard family, in memory of their daughter, Jordan Eva Menard. To honour the memory of their children, walkers placed a picture of their loved one onto the memory banner along with a personal message. The banner will remain in the office until next year's walk. Walkers were also able to obtain commemorative buttons with their child's photo, thanks to Sporting Images, who donated the button machine.

SNAP Oshawa also joined us at the walk this year and took some wonderful pictures. You can view the pictures online at the following link:

[http://www.snaposhawa.com/?option=com_sngevents&id\[\]=249233](http://www.snaposhawa.com/?option=com_sngevents&id[]=249233)

The special morning concluded with the poem "Remembering You" read by Lauren Sears, as well as closing thoughts and prize announcements by Sharon Sears.

This year, gracious donors and corporate sponsors contributed to an unforgettable event for all. Once again, the beautiful owl print was donated and raffled off by Colleen Timmins in memory of her son Greg, who sketched the drawing before his passing. Special thanks to our wonderful clowns Kathy and Ed Young who entertained the children during the walk with fun-shaped balloons and face paintings. Also,

following people and organizations who donated gifts for our large pledge earners. Thanks to Mark Geens from LaFarge Canada who donated the Raptor tickets; Margaret Fortune for her donation as a Personal Organizer, valued at \$400; Newcastle Funeral Home for their donation of \$100; Armstrong Funeral Home who donated the Maple Leaf and Oshawa General tickets; and McIntosh-Anderson Funeral Home who donated the Keg gift certificate and Oshawa Generals tickets.

Lastly, we would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers, staff, families and organizations that assisted. Whether it was behind the scenes, helping out at a table or donating a prize for the prize table, it was greatly appreciated. Your continued time and efforts are very much needed and cherished.



Participants gather at Five Points for the annual Walk

Our Children Remembered.....

Christopher Logan Woods	June 1, 2005	Samantha Shirley Baird	July 21, 1999
Taelyn Marie Peckford	June 2, 2010	Sarah Burnham	July 22, 2003
Laura Irene Macdonell	June 4, 1994	Samantha Brittney Babcock	July 23, 1993
Timothy Shane McDonald	June 4, 2006	Bryan Matthew Gainer	July 23, 2000
Tessa Agelopoulos	June 6, 2007	James Johnson	July 24, 2001
Christina de Vries-Roach	June 6, 2004	Mark Van Den Oetelaar	July 27, 1963
Nicholas David Willaim Hutchison	June 6, 1999	Beverly Warner	July 27, 2002
Chloe Mounsey	June 6, 2007	Andrew Mason	July 28, 2002
Daniel Melanson	June 7, 2009	Andrew Gary McSweeney	July 28, 1994
Angelo Mazzotta	June 8, 2010	Sara Young	July 28, 1994
Kathy Phelan	June 8, 1985	Ryan Addison	July 30, 2005
Steven Dafeo	June 9, 2004	Shannon York	July 30, 2004
Glen Michael Bruce Monro	June 9, 2002	Surinder Mehar	July 31, 1999
Maureen Wright	June 9, 2002	Patricia (Trish) Peter	July 31, 2004
Margaret Nemeth	June 10, 2003	Rick Swale	August 1, 2000
Kimberly Ann Whitsitt	June 10, 1994	Dallas Rae	August 3, 2010
Kelly Eileen Goswell	June 11, 1992	Jennifer Copithorn	August 4, 1998
Brooklyn Ilean Fogg-Conlin	June 12, 2009	Brent Foster	August 4, 2007
Gunner Aaron Terry Mayhew	June 13, 2004	Sydney Young	August 5, 2003
Christopher Dennis Penny	June 14, 1995	Daniel Caldwell	August 8, 2010
Corey Grentz	June 14, 2010	Gary Smith	August 9, 2002
Michelle Marie Meagher	June 15, 2009	Jessica Dale Whitney	August 9, 1998
Melissa Jean Wilson	June 18, 1990	Lily Maria Kathleen Payne	August 10, 2007
David Gregory Schneider	June 20, 1998	Dennis John Zoelman	August 11, 1993
Kohwyn Babcock	June 20, 2010	Shayaan Aziz	August 13, 2010
Edward Erwin	June 21, 2003	Gregg Hayden	August 13, 2005
Lorna Ellen Buzzell	June 22, 1998	Christine Crossman	August 14, 2004
Paul David Carter	June 22, 1985	Ashton Payette	August 14, 2010
Ian Booth	June 23, 2007	Jonathan Stewart	August 14, 2004
Gillian Berthelot	June 23, 2010	Tiah Ephraim	August 16, 2008
Connor Battah	June 26, 2008	Kale Garry Nichols	August 16, 2001
Christina Grace Glover	June 27, 1999	Trisha Banton	August 19, 2009
Heather Goverde	June 27, 2004	Mark Vandermeer	August 19, 2008
Olivia Kowalchuk	June 27, 1993	Trevor Stephenson	August 20, 2000
Frank Benczenleitner	June 30, 1989	Annette E. Stewart	August 20, 1989
Tanya Veinot	June 30, 2006	Cortney-Lynne Twiddy	August 20, 1994
Brian Haring	July 1, 1994	Tracy Scott	August 20 2010
Leith Hawker	July 1, 1998	Ryan J. Haber	August 21, 1999
Johanna Mary Faith Nesbitt	July 1, 1993	Colin Humphrey	August 21, 2000
Shon Hart	July 2, 2006	Shawn Presley	August 21, 2000
Kathleen Wels	July 2, 1979	Murray Schoenau	August 21, 1990
Michael Campbell	July 3, 2009	Greg Miles	August 22, 2008
Laurie (Foreman) Wilkinson	July 4, 1998	Jamil Mohamed	August 22, 2009
Juliette Francis	July 7, 2010	Tucker Taylor	August 22, 2008
Jaedin Davis	July 8, 2003	Andrew Chaplin	August 23, 2008
Jesse Comeau	July 11, 2009	Emily Stow	August 23, 1999
Joey Alton	July 12, 2008	Geoffrey Dykstra	August 24, 2008
Michael Potter	July 12, 2010	Jeremy Finn	August 24, 2002
Craig Beers	July 13, 2003	Frank Aubrey Lessard	August 24, 1997
Christopher Swindell	July 13, 2000	Michael "Shane" Girard	August 25, 1993
Danny Tkalec	July 13, 2000	Paul Strasbourg	August 25, 2009
Amanda Richardson	July 14, 2007	Jackie Woolridge	August 27, 1999
Mattieu Moriarity	July 15, 2003	Sean Robert Aylward	August 28, 2002
Brandon Niblett	July 16, 2002	Luke Christopher Bachman	August 28, 1998
Derek Garner	July 15, 2007	Craig W.D. Green	August 28, 1995
Lesley Blackmore	July 18, 2009	Steven Mayhew	August 29, 2000
Carter James Duncan	July 18, 2004	Constant Germano	August 30, 1993
Peter Hansen	July 18, 2001	Paul Anthony Jones	August 31, 1995
Michael Watson	July 19, 2008	Alex Novia	August 31, 2008

A Special Thank you

We are lucky to have an additional person in the office and want to acknowledge the hard work of our member and office support person, Sharon Sears. Working with the ED and the volunteers, she ensures the smooth day to day operation of our organization.

Thanks to our Volunteers

BFO-Durham is especially grateful to all of our dedicated volunteers. You are what make it all possible, and give meaning to the words “the bereaved helping the bereaved learn to live with grief.”

Facilitators, One-on-One Support: Jane Carter, Sharon Sears, Jackie Foster, Magda Zoelman, Maggie Fortune, Angela White, Joan Pearson, Denise Love, Michelle Murray, Denise Robinson, Nichole Dickoff, Charlotte McMorrow, Louise O’ Donnell, Cheryl Clarke.

Office Volunteers: Denise Love, Magda Zoelman, Marlene Charewicz, Angela White, Caroline Goswell

Newsletter Committee: Michael and Joyce Schneider

Speaker’s Bureau: Gary Goswell

Family Support Night Coordinator: Caroline Goswell

Anniversary letters: Joan Pearson

Librarian: Denise Love



When: Sunday, August 14th 11^{am} - 5:00^{pm}

Where: Hungarian Park in Hampton (Taunton Rd. East to Durham #57 North; Follow the Signs on Taunton Rd)

Inquiry: B.F.O office or 905-259-9159

Admission only \$3 (children are free)

FOOD - GAMES - MUSIC - PRIZES

Summer Drop-in
Schedule
B.F.O. Office

July Drop-Ins:

Infant loss Drop-in
July 4th 7-9

Evening Drop-ins
July 13th 7-9
July 28th 7-9

Afternoon Drop-in
July 18th 1-3

August Drop-Ins

Infant loss
Aug. 8th 7-9

Afternoon Drop-in
Aug 22th 1-3

Evening Drop-in
Aug 25th 7-9

My Son Steven



*I walked away that morning, without a backward glance,
The last time I would hold you or see your beautiful face,
The last time I would kiss you and feel your strong embrace.*

*So solid and so real, so vibrant and alive,
A happy face with twinkling eyes, my fine young man, my child.
My only son, my Steven, the apple of my eye,
So cruelly taken from me, I never said goodbye.*

*The shattered remnant of my heart is strangely beating still,
with holes so black and fathomless no light could ever fill.
I don't know how I face each day without my darling son.
Gone is all the happiness, the love of my life, the joy.*

*The years stretch on before me, so black and dark and long.
I pray you walk beside me, son, and help to keep me strong.
And when my life is over, come to me on that day,
And smile at me and hold me tight and carry me away.*

*The wind whispers through the trees, the brightest star at night,
A rainbow on a dismal day, a shaft of golden light,
All these are signs you send to me, a message from above,
That even death can't break the bonds of Son and Mother Love.*

Love you forever,

Mom

Margaret Devesceri