

PROGRAM

**World Down Syndrome Day
March 21**



Open House

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Art Gallery of Hamilton

Hamilton, Ontario



BIG DREAMS: EDUCATION Open House Planning Committee

Throughout the event, if you are in need of any assistance, please look for one of our planning committee members:



Jennifer Crowson – President



Alyson Kowalchuk – Secretary



Ingrid Muschta – Communications

We will be happy to assist in making this day a great celebration for our families and friends coming together to celebrate the beauty found in different abilities.

BIG DREAMS: EDUCATION –The Theme

The theme for this year's Open House is BIG DREAMS: Education –Advocating Beyond Inclusion. Our inspiration for this theme comes from our strong belief that children and adults with Down syndrome **can and do** learn throughout their lifetime. Fifty years ago, parents of children with Down syndrome were encouraged to put their children in institutions-where they were not given the opportunity to learn to read, write, and create. The general thinking of the day was that people with Down syndrome could not learn these things and *therefore did not need to be taught*. Some trail-blazing parents and professionals didn't listen to this negative mindset and chose to raise their children at home-where they were provided unconditional love and stimulation as well as knowledge. Gradually, through the advocacy of parents and supportive professionals-our education system welcomed people with Down syndrome and other intellectual and physical delays into our preschools, schools, colleges and some universities.

Children with Down syndrome are NOW learning to read and write alongside their peers—they are included in mainstream education. Tremendous progress has been made to include children and adults in mainstream education—but we believe that there is much more we can and must do to make sure the skills and abilities of ALL people with Down syndrome are recognized, fostered and developed.

As part of our celebration, the Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton will be presenting to the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board with copies of the Canadian Down Syndrome Society's Educator Package. The DSAH is investing in the future of Inclusive Education in Hamilton by providing the school boards with ONE copy of this excellent resource tool for EACH of their schools.



BIG DREAMS: EDUCATION—Displays

We are honoured to host a series of diverse community partners who will display their services/products at our World Down Syndrome Day Open House. Education goes beyond books and classroom lessons – sports, music, hobbies- all have a formative impact on the lives of all children and adults; people born with Down syndrome are no different and can benefit greatly from these learning activities.

Community Partners Display Information

1. Centre for String Playing
2. Parent Advocacy Learning Support (P.A.L.S)
3. Mohawk College – Community Integration through Co-Operative Education Program
4. McMaster Special Needs Assistance Program & Superhero Training Academy
5. Making Waves Hamilton
6. CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research



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BIG DREAMS: EDUCATION –Agenda

10:30 to 10:45 am	Registration -to continue throughout the event.
10:45 to 11:25 am	Opening Remarks – Jennifer Crowson, DSAH President Welcome words – Councillor, Mathew Green, Ward 3 Presentation to School Boards –CDSS Educator Package Violin Performance – Gabrielle Urech & Caroline Colenbrander <i>"Dancing with Myself" & "Fiddlers' Frolic"</i>
11:30 am -12:00 noon	Keynote Speaker – Andy Loebus “Raising the Bar in Education for children with Down syndrome”
12:05 -12:15 pm	Q & A period for Andy
12:20 - 12:40 pm	Open time
12:45 pm	A Student's View: The Impact of Inclusion – Laura Stremble Closing Remarks –Jennifer Crowson, DSAH President

BIG DREAMS: EDUCATION –Kids Zone

There will be two different places where kids can unwind or take a break from the activities of the day. A small kids zone will be designated within the event pavillion – look for the sign or ask our DSAH table. Children with sensory needs may use this area while parents listen to our speakers/guests. Please ensure that someone is supervising your child while in this zone.

There is also a Kids Room **The Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life Children's Art Site** –here children can play with crafts, read books, and access some fun activities to keep them occupied. Please note that a family member **MUST** supervise their children at all times – **there is NO child minding available.**

BIG DREAMS: EDUCATION – Speakers & Display Information

SPEAKERS & SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

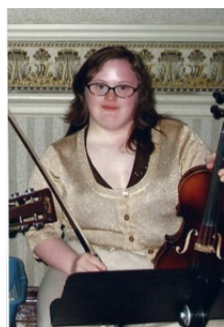
Andy Loebus – Down Syndrome Research Institute (<http://www.dsri.ca/>)



Andy Loebus is the founder of the Down Syndrome Research Institute (DSRI), a summer school for young people with Down syndrome which has been running in London, Ontario for 11 years. He is a secondary teacher with extensive experience in special and mainstream education. Andy has four sons, the youngest of whom has Down syndrome. Jennifer Shields is elementary English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. Jennifer has assisted Andy with DSRI every summer. Jennifer also teaches Inclusive Education at the University of Toronto.

Andy's presentation *"Raising the Bar" for students with Down Syndrome*, will discuss the Institutes' various models that have proven to be effective and how current research has guided them in developing language-rich programming in the areas of literacy, numeracy and communication.

Gabrielle Urech



Gabrielle Urech is 27 years old and lives in Ancaster with her parents, Steve and Cindy and one of her sisters, Clara. She has been attending *the Centre For String Playing*, for 15 years, under the direction of Miss Caroline Colenbrander. Gaby also likes to write stories and watch movies. Gaby is a member of the Challenger Baseball Association and enjoys playing baseball in the summer and indoor soccer in the winter. She has three sisters, three nephews and two nieces.

Caroline Colenbrander



Caroline graduated from McMaster University. She started working in the Hamilton Public school system, and continues to work in private schools such as Hillfield, and Lee Academy. She also teaches a course at McMaster University. Caroline believes that "music is supposed to be fun" as well as being a discipline which is good for the soul. Do you want to be part of our non-competitive learner friendly environment?

Miss Laura Stremble,



I am smart, kind and happy 13-year-old girl, currently in Grade 9 at St. Mary's High School, Dundas. My parents have encouraged me to be all that I can be and do all that I can do. I participate in the Superheroes exercise program at McMaster, Special Olympics Rhythmic Gymnastics and Special Olympics Bowling.

I do a lot of volunteer work with my Church and Special Olympics, I have my own Heart and Stroke Fundraising team, "Keep on Pumpin'" in honour of my heart surgery at 4 months, I have donated 29" of my hair to Angel Hair for Kids with Cancer, and I have participated in Science Fair since Grade 6 and last year won a Silver Medal at HWCDSB System Science Fair and attended BASEF with my project! I have attended Camp Marydale for many years as a camper, and last summer I was a Counsellor-in-Training for the entire summer! Don't tell me "You can't do that!" I will prove you wrong!

Community Partners Display Information

Centre for String Playing <http://www.stringcentre.ca/index.html>

Whether it is you or your school aged child that is interested in studying violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, flute or classical guitar, there is a place here at the Centre for String Playing. Ages 3 to Senior Citizen, beginner to advanced. Classes, lessons, ensembles and orchestras are all featured at CSP

The Parent, Advocacy, Learning & Support Network (P.A.L.S)

<http://www.palsnetwork.ca/about-us.php>

Tracy Sherriff is a mother of 3 whose family has been touched with learning differences in a variety of ways. No matter the diagnosis, no matter the cause, Tracy knows that when your child struggles that parents want to take charge and help their child find their way. After recognizing the lack of supports for parents in Hamilton, Ontario and surrounding areas for families of children and youth diagnosed with learning disabilities and related conditions, she founded the P.A.L.S. Network in October 2010.

Mission of P.A.L.S.: Bringing parents and professionals of children with different learning disabilities and related challenges in the Hamilton and surrounding areas together to support, educate, and share.



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Mohawk College – Community Integration through Co-Operative Education (CICE) Program

<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/interdisciplinary-studies/community-integration-through-co-operative-education.html>

The CICE program provides individuals with **intellectual disabilities** and other significant learning challenges the opportunity to experience college life, pursue a postsecondary education and develop skills which will help prepare them for employment. Students will attend common core mandatory CICE courses with their peers from the CICE program and will also have the opportunity to attend an academic experience class in an area of their interest. Students will have the support of a Learning Facilitator who may attend classes, provide follow-up study skills and test preparation.

The Department of Athletics and Recreation at McMaster University

<http://www.marauders.ca/>

The Department of Athletics and Recreation at McMaster University runs three programs for individuals with developmental disabilities: Strive for Health, Superhero Training Academy, and Special Needs Assistance Program. These programs aim to provide fitness and healthy living programming for individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities.

Strive for Health

Strive for Health is a 10-week fitness, health and wellness program designed specifically for adults with developmental disabilities that takes place at the Pulse Fitness Centre at McMaster University. Participants have the opportunity to try a variety of recreational sports and fitness activities such as resistance training, cardiovascular training, and circuits. There are also opportunities for participants to learn about health and wellness.

Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is designed to assist Pulse Fitness Members who have special needs. If you need physical assistance to complete your workout, this program is for you! You will be paired with one of our student volunteers, who will meet you for your workout and provide assistance for a great workout. This program is included with a Pulse Fitness Centre membership.



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Superhero Training Academy (STA)

The Superhero Training Academy is a fitness program designed specifically for children, aged 4 to 18 years, with special needs. The program focuses on improving fitness fundamentals, such as balance, flexibility, coordination, and strength, while also promoting the development of social skills, such as listening to instructions and working cooperatively in groups. To achieve these goals, children receive the undivided attention of McMaster student volunteers. Parents are welcome to stay and observe.

Making Waves Hamilton

<http://www.makingwaveshamilton.org/>

Making Waves Hamilton is a non-profit organization run by McMaster University students. We provide affordable one-on-one swimming lessons to children with special needs in the Greater Hamilton community. Our lessons are customized for children with a range of special needs between the ages of 4 and 18. We welcome all levels of swimming ability and comfort in and around the water. Our goal is to promote water safety and encourage all students to achieve their full potential in the water.

CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research

<https://www.canchild.ca/>

CanChild is a non-profit research and educational centre located within the [School of Rehabilitation Science](#) at [McMaster University](#) in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Our research is focused on improving the lives of children with a variety of developmental conditions and their families over the life course.

Founded in 1989, *CanChild* is a world leader in the field of childhood disability. Our cutting-edge research and active strategies for making findings easily accessible to a wide range of audiences make *CanChild* the premier source for childhood disability information. *CanChild* has developed strong collaborative research [partnerships](#), creating an alliance between families, world-class scientists, and established research organizations in Canada and internationally. These partnerships are vital to *CanChild's* future growth and success.



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CanChild's multidisciplinary team includes researchers from paediatrics, rehabilitation medicine (physiatry), occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language pathology, kinesiology, social psychology, epidemiology and biostatistics.

BIG DREAMS: EDUCATION – Friends of DSAH

Every year, we are fortunate to have the support of several organizations that provide their services and products to the Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton honouring our not-for-profit status. This event is another example where Friends of DSAH have stepped up and helped us create a morning of joy and celebration for you. We are thankful to them and encourage you to support them as business. They are business with a great sense of social responsibility and we applaud them for it!

Event Hall -Art Gallery of Hamilton <http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/>



Cupcakes- Cristiana's Tortina Shop, Brampton <http://www.cristinastortinashop.com/>



Fun Photo Booth- DasPhotoBooth (<http://dasphotobooth.ca/>)



Alex Djordjevic : Videographer <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaVwb3vpyqBKZS5cEQa26nQ>





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BIG DREAMS: I AM – How to get there & parking

(http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com/va_dir.php)

From outside Hamilton

From Burlington, Oakville, Toronto, and other points East (as well as Niagara Falls):

Take the Q.E.W. and follow Highway 403 West to Hamilton. Take Main Street East exit into Hamilton. Continue on Main Street and turn left at Summers Lane for underground parking.

From Brantford, Kitchener-Waterloo, and other points West:

Follow Highway 403 and take Main Street East exit. Continue on Main Street and turn left at Summers Lane for underground parking.

From within Hamilton

By Car:

From the West end: Follow Main Street traveling East. Pass Bay Street and turn left onto Summers Lane where you will find underground parking.

From the East end: Follow King Street traveling West, past James Street. The Gallery and underground parking is directly across from the Sheraton Hotel.

By Bus: ([click here to visit the HSR website for routes and schedules](#))

From the West end: Take Delaware bus and stop at Main and MacNab. Walk up ramp or stairs to Commonwealth Square (directly across from City Hall) and in Main Street entrance.

From the East end: Take West Hamilton or Main West bus and stop at Jackson Square, directly across from the Gallery.

Parking

- a) Directly underneath the Art Gallery of Hamilton

The City of Hamilton runs the parking garage located directly underneath the Art Gallery of Hamilton. This garage can be entered from Summers Lane and from King Street (look for the green P sign). Carry the ticket you'll receive upon entering with you and pay your parking fee at a pay station before you return to your car. These parking stations accept credit cards, bills and coins.



View from King Street.

- b) Other Municipal and Private Parking Lots and Garages
There are a number of municipally- and privately-run parking lots and garages throughout downtown Hamilton. Generally, the fees range from \$3.00 to \$7.00 a day to park. See the map below

