



Down Syndrome
Association of Ontario
presents...

Get Connected

vision together
independence inclusion
equality dreams
friendships ideas
team home job learning
school awareness
support opportunities
fairness parents
community family
Down syndrome
conference

WordItOut

DSAO Annual Conference 2015

October 24-25, 2015

Horseshoe Valley Resort

Barrie, Ontario

HOTEL INFORMATION:

1101 Horseshoe Valley Road West,
Barrie, ON L4M 4Y8
(705) 835-2790



Group Discount Code: DSAO102315

Expires **September 30**, 2015. Rooms at these rates will not available after this date.

All reservations will be reviewed at the cut-off date. All guests booking rooms using the conference rate, must also be registered for this year's Conference to qualify for the conference rate.

Note: 1 night stay will be charged to your credit card upon booking. On arrival, a credit card authorization is taken. Personal cheques are not accepted at check-in. Please note that the Hotel Resort fees and taxes are additional to the rates below.

Reserve soon to ensure you have the secured rate. There is an option to extend your stay. Only a limited number of rooms are available at these discounted pre-tax, rates so book early.

Please note you need to register for the Conference separately on our www.dsao.ca website

For the Night of October 2015	Room Type			
	King Room	Horseshoe Room (2 Queen Beds)	Deluxe King Valley	Deluxe 2 Queen Room
Fri Oct 23	\$149.00	\$149.00	\$169.00	\$169.00
Sat Oct 24	\$149.00	\$149.00	\$169.00	\$169.00
Sun Oct 25	\$149.00	\$149.00	\$169.00	\$169.00

Please review the Horseshoe Valley site for more details on the room types and regular rates.

This year, along with the meals included with the conference registration, families will be able to purchase additional meals for Saturday Breakfast, Saturday Lunch and Sunday Breakfast from the DSAO Website.

CONFERENCE

Overview

Friday October 23, 2015

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Registration

Saturday October 24, 2015

7:00 AM to 8:45 AM Breakfast

7:45 AM to 8:30 AM Registration

9:00 AM to 10:15 AM Welcome and Key Notes
with Luciano Contini

10:15 AM to 10:30 AM Break

10:30 AM to 12:00PM Workshop “1” See your registration card

12:00 PM to 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM Workshop “2” See your registration card

3:00 PM to 3:30 PM Break

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM Workshop “3” See your registration card

5:15 PM to 6:00 PM **DSAO Annual General Meeting**

Starting at 7:30pm Join our Family Dance with DJ, Marc Ceci (Self Advocate)

Sunday October 25, 2015

7:00 AM to 8:45 AM Breakfast

8:45 AM to 10:00 AM Workshop “4” See your registration card

10:15 AM to 11:45 AM End Note Addresses and Wrap-Up
with Janet Klees

SPEAKER INFORMATION:

Saturday October 24, 2015 – Starting at 9:00 AM

Keynote Speaker: **Connections within my Community** – Kassy Wright

Kassy is a self-advocate that will share some of her experiences in making connections.

Keynote Speaker: **A Father's Vision** - Luciano Contini

Luciano wears many hats: a Human Resources professional, a Board Member of Community Living Ontario, husband and father. As “Peter’s Dad”, Luciano has developed a positive framework for advocating. A speaker at a number of conferences and workshops, Luciano will share how his professional life, where he is well-versed in accountability and the Human Rights Code, has significantly impacted his personal vision and mission, and how he views advocacy as a journey of opportunity for all of all people in society. Please see his biography for more information.

Sunday October 25, 2015 – Starting at 10:00 AM

Keynote Speaker: **Being Connected** – Fiona Fryer

Fiona is a self-advocate that will share some of her experiences in making connections.

Keynote Speaker: **Stories of Possibility** – Janet Klees

Her work and thinking focuses on each person as a unique being with gifts and contributions. She will share that families – where present and supported – have great capacity to imagine, bring about and safeguard a good life for and with their family member. Relationship of many kinds – especially natural, typical and personally-committed and those strengthened by networks or circles – are key to a life of meaning, engagement, and belonging for people. Please see her biography for more information.

WORKSHOP SESSION 1

Saturday October 24, 2013

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Workshop A **Open Forum - Connect with Other Parents of Younger Children (0 to new parents to Elementary School age**
Target Audience: **Leanne Tovey, HDSA Chair**
Moderator:

This is an open forum for you to review subjects important to you. Some potential topics may include: Special Services at Home funding, PIP programs, building your support base, getting ready for entry into primary school.

Workshop B **Making Friends and Staying connected using Technology**
Target Audience: **parents of Middle School to Early High School**
Speaker: **Traci Lindblad**

Traci is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and registered Speech-Language Pathologist, Researcher, and Teacher. Traci has been working with children and youth since 1985. Tracy is the Clinical Director at Monarch House, Oakville, Ontario. Tracie has extensive knowledge in using technology, assistive devices, and programs so kids and youth can keep connected, their way.

Workshop C **"STEPS to Independence"**
Target Audience: **parents of late High School and older**
Speaker: **Sunday Cvetanovic, Community Living Toronto**

Sunday Cvetanovic is a Program Manager with Community Living Toronto who has worked in the Developmental Services sector for 30 years. STEPS to Independence is a guidebook to explore readiness for semi-independent living. It is a holistic tool to prepare someone for semi-independent living; building skills, confidence, and self-esteem. It presents feedback on current life skills and identifies any areas for learning to increase readiness. It also offers opportunities to share differing perspectives on knowledge, skills and readiness from the perspective of the person, their family and others who know the person.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2

Saturday October 24, 2015

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Workshop A

Neuroplasticity Therapy

Target Audience:

new parents to Elementary School age

Speaker:

Judith Dack

These methods are based on the neuroplasticity of the brain and are intended to help physical and cognitive development of differently abled children and adults. Judith practices the Anat Baniel and Feldenkrais methods out of her studio in Toronto.

Workshop B

Open Forum - Connect with Other Parents of 9 to 15 year olds

Target Audience:

parents of Middle School to Early High School

Moderator:

Luciano Contini

This is an open forum for you to review subjects important to you. Some potential topics may include: challenges of middle school, IEPs, High School Placement, Linking your child into sports and Special Olympics, building friendships.

Workshop C

Employment After High School

Target Audience:

parents of late High School and older

Irene Moore

People with Disabilities can add financial value to employers. Join this session to gain additional ideas, knowledge and resources on how training may lead to meaningful and successful employment opportunities. Irene spear-headed the initiative between Humber College and Christian Horizons to establish a program to gain skills for competitive employment.

WORKSHOP SESSION 3

Saturday October 24, 2015

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

- Workshop A**
Target Audience: new parents to Elementary School age
Speaker: **Carolyn Glover, Pharmacist & Parent**
Carolyn will provide some deeper understanding of the Ontario health care system. She will touch on topics such as successful advocating, accessing resources and alternative solutions to meet the health care needs of your person with Down Syndrome.
- Workshop B**
Target Audience: parents of Middle School to Early High School
Speaker: **Karen Drexler, Behaviour Consultant**
Karen has co-created and implemented an 8 week program entitled “Relationships and the Teen in ME”. Join her for an interactive session on relationships and sexuality. Karen is also the mother of a teenage son who has Down syndrome.
- Workshop C**
Target Audience: parents of late High School and older
Speaker: **Janet Klees**
“There is an abundance and richness in our communities so that, despite its imperfections, community is the preferred place to be – enjoying home, work, learning, leisure and relationships in typical and familiar roles and settings. What we can imagine in all of these elements, can be achieved.” Janet has been involved in the lives of people with disabilities, their families, and allies in the community for over 30 years.

WORKSHOP SESSION 4

Sunday October 25, 2015

8:45 AM to 10:00 AM

Workshop A

Target Audience:

Speaker:

**How To Pick the Best Professional for You and Your Child
new parents to Elementary School age**

Traci Lindblad

Traci is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and registered Speech-Language Pathologist, Researcher, and Teacher. Traci has been working with children and youth since 1985. Tracy is the Clinical Director at Monarch House, Oakville, Ontario. Tracie has spent her career helping children and families, providing therapeutic services and supports and resources to live successful lives on their terms. Tracie is a highly sought after speaker across Canada and the United States and has recently returned from Europe. Tracie has much to share.

Workshop B

Target Audience:

Speaker:

Making Social Connections

parents of Middle School to Early High School

Joyce Hignett

Joyce is the owner of Speak Freely Therapy Services as well as the primary speech-language pathologist. Joyce Hignett has years of experience, practical knowledge and tools to share on making meaningful social connections during the “rollercoaster ride” known as the tween/teen years.

Workshop C

Target Audience:

Moderator:

Open Forum – Connect with Other Parents of 16+

parents of late High School and older

Paul Bandiera.

This is an open forum for you to review subjects important to you. Some potential topics may include: transition planning; challenges of leaving school, job placement and job coaches, DSO processes, ODSP enrollment and rule.

Biography Information on Key Note Speakers:

Luciano Contini

Luciano is married and the father of two boys, the youngest of whom has Down syndrome. Since their youngest son was born, both he and his wife have undertaken the task of building awareness of the value that people with Down syndrome bring to our lives and to society in general.

They actively participate in Down syndrome awareness initiatives in their community; have written articles for a large national magazine and a national journal; and, via his speaking engagements, Luciano has focused on the necessity of advancing inclusion of challenged individuals in all aspects of society, as valued members of "the human family".

To deliver on his personal mandate, he is currently a Director-at-Large for Community Living Ontario, Vice-President of the local Montessori School, has occupied the role of representative of the local Down Syndrome Association for a Special Education Advisory Committee, and seizes every speaking opportunity possible to deliver his message of inclusion and advocacy.

In his professional life Luciano is the owner/proprietor of an independent Human Resources Management / Labour Relations consulting firm for employers. In his the 20 years in the field, he has worked at differing levels of management in both the public and private sectors. He actively trains his client's managerial staff in his practice, where he applies his personal focus on accountability to empower clientele by transferring his knowledge and expertise. Luciano has been and continues to be a strong proponent of the *Ontario Human Rights Code* in both his personal life and in his career .

Biography Information on Key Note Speakers:

Janet Klees

Janet Klees has been involved in the lives of people with disabilities, their families, and allies in community for over 30 years. Until September, she had been coordinator with the family-governed Deohaeko Support Network for 20 years - almost from its beginnings when families designed and built a 105-unit housing co-operative which seven of their sons and daughters with disabilities now call home, and from which they live typical and full lives in community. Janet has been deeply affected by the lives of the people with disabilities and their families that she has come to know within that group and through other life experiences. She is the author of three books which are directly rooted in the Deohaeko experience, (*We Come Bearing Gifts; Our Presence has Roots; Deohaeko Decades*) and which are now sold around the world to present the unique options of this family group. Janet has recently taken on the role of Executive Director with a family support organization, the Durham Association for Family Respite Services with hopes of sharing learning with a wider group of families in Durham Region.

Janet's work centers on individually-designed arrangements and she is especially concerned that families are well-supported to think through practical, principled ways to ensure that their family members live meaningful, involved and secure lives within their communities. Janet helps people to focus on individually-designed arrangements for one person at a time, kept rich and secure through a focus on people holding valued and contributing social roles, finding places of belonging in their communities, and having a range of relationships that provide richness and safeguarding in their lives. Most of Janet's ideas arise from strong day-to-day practice. Rooted in this experience, Janet presents, consults and teaches across Canada and in Holland, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and other countries around the world - though on a smaller scale these days!

All of my material is rooted in my understanding of social role valorization and based in my 30 years' experience directly with families individually and in family groups (including 20 years with the family group, Deohaeko Support Network). Therefore, all of my presentation formats include much storytelling and sharing of my own experiences in many situations. I have been, above all, a practitioner and this comes through in my work and how it is offered.

My work and thinking focuses on each person as a unique being with gifts and contributions. Families – where present and supported – have great capacity to imagine, bring about and safeguard a good life for and with their family member. Relationship of many kinds – especially natural, typical and personally-committed and those strengthened by networks or circles – are key to a life of meaning, engagement, and belonging for people. Roles are a way of offering one's contributions and being a true part of one's family and community and these can be recognized, enhanced and/or built up and supported in intentional, respectful and ordinary ways. There is an abundance and richness in our communities so that, despite its imperfections, community is the preferred place to be – enjoying home, work, learning, leisure and relationships in typical and familiar roles and settings. What we can imagine in all of these elements, can be achieved.