

# CAWS Newsletter

## Learning Not Always as it Seems

It has been two months since the closing of the CAWS Family Conference and I believe I am suffering from Post Conference Blues.

**What an amazing time** it was! Along with seeing WS family and friends I've known for years, I met new friends; a lot of new friends. I brainstormed, I networked, I listened, I laughed, I even shed a tear or two. Most importantly I learned things I did not plan on learning.

**This was the second** Canadian Conference that I have attended. My first was in Saskatoon four years ago in which I took notes, I sat on the edge of my seat, I tried my hardest to take in every spoken word and store it in the part of my brain that I have reserved for "Williams Syndrome". This year was different. Much different. The chaos of being part of event organizing and standing on the other side of the podium brought a new perspective.

**I learned a lot** of new things about our WS community and WS individuals.

**When one family** reached out to take care of the audio and visual equipment for the Conference and another father forfeited joining his wife at the sessions to photograph the event, I learned our WS community is extremely generous of the time, expertise and resources.

**When volunteers** were required to introduce speakers, work the Registration table, sell merchandise or take part in supporting our Teen and Adult Program, I learned that our WS families will step up when called upon to assist.

**While facilitating** the art session, watching the drumming circle and listening to our WS individuals during the Canadian Idol and Dream Maker Dinner, I learned WS individuals have unlimited potential.

**While thanking** our past Dream Makers, accepting donations for future Dream Makers and watching families bid on silent auction prizes I learned the generosity of our community.

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**Throughout the hustle and bustle** of the Conference I learned that I am part of something that is much bigger than a charity number or a logo. I am part of a community that will do whatever they can, however they can, to support families like them whom have been touched by Williams syndrome. I learned that I not only have a spot reserved in my brain for learning about “Williams Syndrome” but also a place in my heart.

Thank you to every family that helped make the CAWS Family Conference a success.

Coralee Crowe  
*President*



### **CAWS Mission**

Founded in 1984, CAWS exists to provide support and assistance to families with a child affected by Williams syndrome and is a network and family for adults with Williams syndrome.

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**Visit our website**

**<http://caws.sasktelwebhosting.com>**

**Registered office: P.O. Box 2115, Vancouver, BC V6B 3T5**

The Nova Scotia Walk for CAWS took place June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Dewolf Park in Bedford, NS. We had a great turn out with 200 walkers and lots of fun. We loved seeing the sea of green shirts and smiles!

Our morning was filled with live music, facepainting, a bouncy castle and a catered BBQ. We were fortunate enough that one of our very own WS adult, Robert Lavers speak to us quickly on what life with WS is like. He then sent us on our way for a quick 2km walk. Nova Scotia brought their spirit of giving helping raise just over \$11,000 in funds for CAWS - **ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!**

We are looking forward to 2018 to grow our community and even wider awareness."



# the happiest walk in canada

Another great walk in Abbotsford with a record attendance of 57 walkers. Thank you to all those supporters who helped to raise over \$1,000 after expenses – up from last year! It was wonderful to share the afternoon with even more walkers with WS. We had nine people with WS ranging from 2 to 44 years old.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers, including: Tanya – community donations/supplies, Ken & Helen- set-up, Lance - photographer, Heather – registration/donations, Laurel & Tina - t-shirts, Maddy – bubble/tattoo station, Karl – MC, Kevin – snack/water station, Grace & Natasha – dog walkers and EVERYONE - clean up. Hope to see you out again next year.

For some more great photos from our walk photographer, please check out our walk photo album on CAWS BC's NEW Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cawsbc/>.

Thanks to Heather, from BC, and Melanie, from Ontario, for getting the new Facebook page for BC up and running. It is a great way for families to keep up with the CAWS in BC.



# Joey goes to Camp



*The CAWS Music Camp Scholarship recipient in 2014 was Joey Gagnon. It was his intent to attend the Berkshire Hills Music Academy. However, due to unforeseen issues Joey wasn't able to make that year. He has since gone to the Academy. In fact, Joey is very excited to start his third year there. I thought this would be good time to get caught up and feature's his story in our newsletter. Thank you.*

*Rick Chmilar  
Music Camp Scholarship Coordinator*

*T*hank you CAWS, for the Music Camp grant that was applied to Joey's first year of tuition at Berkshire Hills Music Academy. BHMA is a dream we never dared to dream. Joey continues to learn every day in a positive, upbeat environment surrounded by outstanding staff and fun loving peers.

Joey is a very typical WS individual with a big smile and a love for life. We never imagined him living away from home much less attending college in the US. The first few months were an adjustment period, but now Joey sees himself as a mentor for new students. Joey has developed strong friendships, participates in activities that he wants to with his friends, and is learning new things all the time.

I would encourage you to explore what BHMA has to offer. Their summer music programs are also worth considering. Like us, you will be completely amazed at what your child is capable of.

Joey graduated last year from the 2 year certificate program and now at age 24, is taking part in the LIVE (Long-Term Independent Vocational Experience) program. His math class is banking and budgeting - Joey now knows and appreciates the value of a dollar! Gym class is yoga, Zumba and dance ensemble. Learning with the circles program has helped Joey to understand about boundaries and not to interact with strangers. He has earned enough independence he can safely take a short walk with a friend. Later this year, Joey's goal is to learn bus independence with a friend. Like everything else, he will learn by using baby steps.

Some of Joey's other classes include men's health, self-advocacy, social skills, art, and cooking. Joey called home the other day with tears of joy because he steamed broccoli all by himself! For student-made dinner this week, Joey combined broccoli with fettuccine Alfredo. For a guy who would not combine his favourite foods

of peanut butter and bananas, that's a huge step forward.

Joey takes part in both private and various ensemble music classes where he is developing his voice and keyboard skills. At Friday Variety Hour and concerts throughout the year, students perform in front of an audience of their peers as well as others who attend. The crowd is very positive and each performer receives an enthusiastic round of applause.

Joey plays the keyboard for an hour or two every day because he loves it. He writes his own songs and rewrites songs he has heard. Joey learns by ear and memorizes the pieces he plays. My personal favourite piano performance so far is Save the Last Dance for Me. Joey sang a song with a friend which also brings a tear to my eye. It is on YouTube and can be found by searching BHMA Joey If I Had A Million Dollars.

*continued on page 22*

“ This is so bitter sweet. ”

Mother to Aden,  
Jodi tells her journey.



This is our son, Aden and this is his personal home based defibrillator. A defibrillator? Yup - life with Williams syndrome. Our road to receiving this amazing lifesaving machine has been long and emotional. In January after having an AED placed in his school, his Cardiologist stressed the importance of a home based AED as well. That was a punch to the gut.

January. You ask?!? And now we are just getting our butts in gear in July? I struggled as a mom in this. The urgency wasn't there in my mind ... our boy's heart is stable and because we have never had the fear slap us in the face, I fell short. That being said, I traveled many avenues since January trying to find resources for help. These lifesavers are by far NOT cheap.

Benefits were a no. Not 1% covered. I was unable to find a source through our government. I tired word of mouth. I contacted other charities. Nothing. Through another respect-

able charity I was given the name "the Mikey Network "

Feeling deflated I did two things. I visited the website of <http://mikeynetwork.com> and filled out an application in hopes that our family would be lucky enough to receive a "Mikey" and second I spoke to a local defibrillator representative. I arranged a hefty

Feeling deflated I did two things. I visited the website of <http://mikeynetwork.com> and filled out an application in hopes that our family would be lucky enough to receive a "Mikey"

monthly payment plan to purchase a machine of our own.

Three days later I received a call from a man named Rene. He introduced himself as calling from the Mikey Network. I instantly started to cry. It turned out to be very emotional for me. He said we were chosen. We

were chosen! As promised it was delivered and we are forever grateful. Although the hope is that we will never have to use this gift. It is however, a relief that if the dreaded day ever comes; we are that much more prepared.

I owe Mikey Network much more than a simple thanks. Please visit their site to read their amazing mantra/

purpose and their amazing doings. Over 2300 defibrillator placed!

This is all about never letting go or giving up. Travel the avenues and keep going. Love what you have and who you have it with!

Jodi Connors, Aden's mother



# Canada Games swimmer Nolan Dobbin

*Nolan Dobbin is 15 years old and has been swimming since he was a toddler. He swims with both the Sackville Swim Club and the Southeast NB Special Olympics team in Moncton. This past August, Nolan represented his province of New Brunswick at the 2017 Summer Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Competing in 5 swimming events (50 meter free, 100 meter freestyle, 50 meter backstroke, 100 meter backstroke, 50 breaststroke), Nolan swam to a personal best in four of his events.*

**Q: So Nolan, tell me about your overall experience as a member of team New Brunswick in the Canada Games this summer in Winnipeg.**

A: "It was amazing!"

**Q: What was amazing about it?**

A: "Just being in Winnipeg and meeting so many people from across the country."

**Q: Did you get to see the city?**

A: "Not really. We were too busy swimming. Practicing and competing."

**Q: What was the pool like?**

A: "It was awesome. We swam in the new PanAm Games pool. Very cool!"

**Q: What else was cool about being on team New Brunswick?**

A: "They flew our team there and back on a chartered plane. They also gave us lots and lots of clothing and swag!"

**Q: How do you feel about your accomplishments in the pool in Winnipeg?**

A: "Very good. I had best times in all but one of my events."

**Q: What was it like swimming against other Special Olympians that were as old as 25?**

A: "It was really hard. They were older, faster and a lot bigger than me!"

**Q: How was the food there?**

A: "It was Okay I guess. They didn't give us enough pizza."

**Q: What would you say was the highlight of your 8 days in Winnipeg?**

A: "The closing ceremonies were the best. So many performers and lots of music. Brett Kissel sang at the ceremony too. He was awesome."

**Q: Any final thoughts on representing team New Brunswick this summer?**

A: "It was an amazing experience. I hope I will get a chance to do it again."

**Q: Do you have any advice for other people with Williams syndrome who play various sports?**

A: "You just have to work hard and think about what is possible. I never thought I would get to do something like this but look what happened to me? Just follow your dreams."





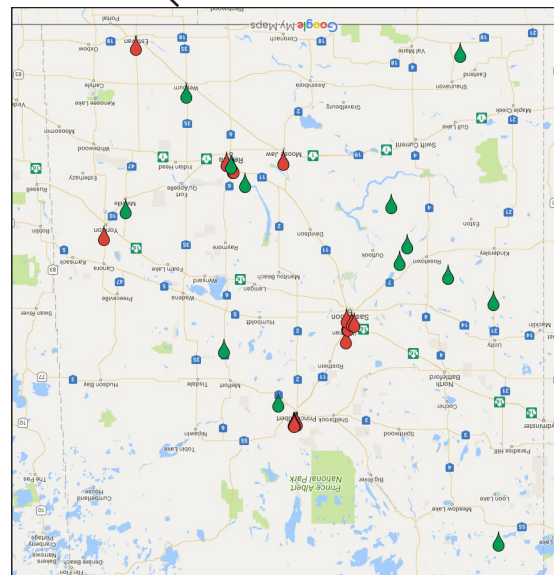
Your SK provincial contact reports:

*You are not alone in Saskatchewan!*



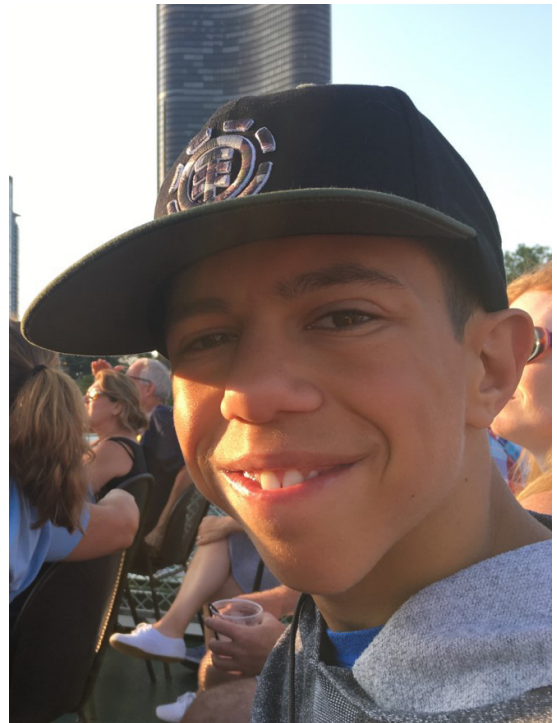
We are 32 families in SK. a friend is close-by...

The green marker is "PO box or town" and the red is "house address".



# MEET: TYLER HALL

*CAWS NEW  
YOUTH CORRESPONDENT  
SHARES HIS  
PERSPECTIVE*



Hi, my name is Tyler Hall. I am 17 years old from Stoney Creek Ontario Canada. I am the new youth correspondent for CAWS. This summer I went to the national Williams syndrome conference in the city of Toronto and I want to tell you about my experience.

What I remember first was arriving at the Sheraton Center hotel in Toronto and going downstairs to the meeting center and checking in with the staff.

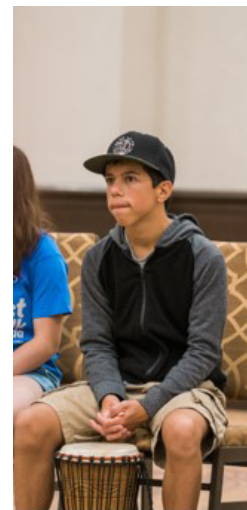
The thing that I liked most about the conference is meeting other people with Williams syndrome from Canada and making new friends.

The thing that I liked about being in the teen program is meeting other people my age and having independence and my own schedule to follow.

The thing that I liked least about the convention is the fire alarm at nighttime even though I watched the fire trucks come.

The funniest part of the convention to me was that one of the doctors said it is not unusual for people with Williams syndrome to call 911 because I've done that before!

I can't wait for another conference in Canada and hopefully will go to Baltimore next year to check out the American conference. I am very excited to be involved now as the Youth Correspondent!



HAVING A  
**BLAST**  
ON  
**BOWEN  
ISLAND**

Williams Syndrome Picnic



Bowen Island BC

September 23 2017

We had ten families from BC attend the Toronto family conference. They came from Surrey, North Saanich, Langley, West Vancouver, Grand Forks, Burnaby, Maple Ridge, and Duncan. Riley, Victoria and John, three youth from BC, were part of a guest panel at the conference. They shared their journeys about dreams they are now living. Their stories and video presentations were interesting and inspiring.

Back in BC, on September 23, we had a family picnic on Bowen Island. Eight families met in Horseshoe Bay and rode the ferry together to Bowen Island to meet up with another family who lives on Bowen Island. For many, it was their first visit to the island. Brandon was there to meet us at the Snug Cove ferry terminal and guide us to our destination. It was a short, scenic walk along a wooden boardwalk to the picnic site at Crippen Park. While everyone got together, Bill and Bill were busy barbequing hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone. After we couldn't eat any more, we loaded onto a bus, generously donated by Peter King (a Bowen Island bus company owner). Richard drove us around the island and gave us a guided tour with the assistance of his son. It was a great day, enjoyed by all.

Thanks everyone who came together to make the day a success!

*For BC information contact: [cawsbc@yahoo.co](mailto:cawsbc@yahoo.co)*

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Group - Canada**

**Visit our website  
[http://caws.  
sasktelwebhosting.com](http://caws.sasktelwebhosting.com)**



Bright Lights, Big Dream...dream the vision

To which I have to think we did when we hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> National Family Conference in Toronto this August 3-6, 2017. I am still dreaming about how successful and powerful it was to spend three days with such fun families and professionals. We connected names to faces, made new friends and established many lasting friendships.

Thank you, to everyone who attended this fabulous conference. Out of the 96 families registered, we had 100% show! We had another four families that registered after the conference had started so that brought us up to 100 families. Amazing to bring the total number to over 450 people attending which included extra guests and professional speakers. The total conference expenses will be reported at a later date.

*A note of thank you to:*

Dr. Nathalie Major-Cook, Dr. Tom Collins, Dr. Carolyn Mervis, Dr. Barbara Pober, Dr. Bonnie Klein-Tasman, Dr. Anne Bassett, Dr. Jennifer Harrington,

Dr. Ronnie Cohn, Dr. Lucy Osborn – we cannot thank you enough for your medical presentations.

Dr. Alvin Law – Keynote – you inspired us all including our young adults.

Dr. Norman Foreman, Julia Beth Kowaleski, Michelle McClure, Brendan Pooran, Geoffrey Zaldin – your expertise in areas needed were greatly appreciated.

Michael Constantinou, Jodi Reid, Kendall Serre, Riley Severinski, Sheena Small, Victoria Hitchen and John Stevenson- your stores were amazing and inspiring.

Bruce Hitchen and AV Strategies – what can we say except thank you. You did it and help us make our conference so professional.

John Serviss – photographer at a last minute's notice – we will never be able to thank enough.

Colby Nargang, Logan Schram – the talent that you two have and bring to all our conferences and the way you shared the stage with all the other young singers – amazing.

Volunteers – thank you to parents and to others to who helped fill in areas of volunteering and never complaining. Melanie Cote – for coordinating volunteers, silent auction and Williams syndrome merchandise, arranging for princess Belle to be at childcare, getting the press to the conference and much more...thank you.

CoraLee Crowe – for keeping the conference rolling and on task by pitching in wherever needed.

Gloria and Mike Mahussier, Jim Reid, Orvella and Fraser Small – you were always there for the extra.

Childcare was amazing and parents and families could not say enough about what excellent care our children had.

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and know that CAWS can actually look at planning the 7<sup>th</sup> National Family Conference in 2021.

I have enjoyed planning the last four conferences and CAWS will find someone to take the task on.

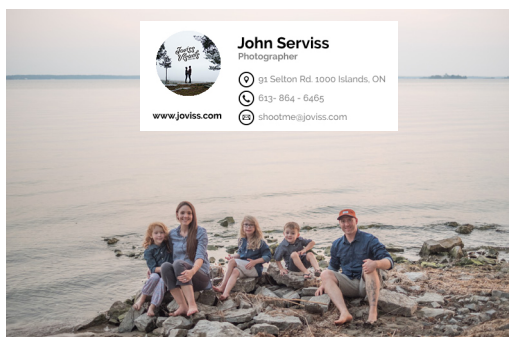
Diane Reid  
***Conference Chair (Past)***



# The 2017 CAWS 6<sup>th</sup> National Family Conference in Review

The 2017 CAWS 6<sup>th</sup> National Family Conference held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto August 4 - 6, was a tremendous success, bringing together individuals with Williams syndrome, their families, those working in the field of Williams syndrome and many others who share a passion for inclusion for a weekend of learning and connecting. The conference was one of the largest to date, with 100 families attending.

Thank you to our photographer, John Serviss, who stepped in at the last moment and agreed to be our conference photographer. He took hundreds of pictures to share with all of us; his contact information is below. On these next couple of pages, you will see just some of the those that attended the conference.



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Blaise Dobbin



Mike Mahussier

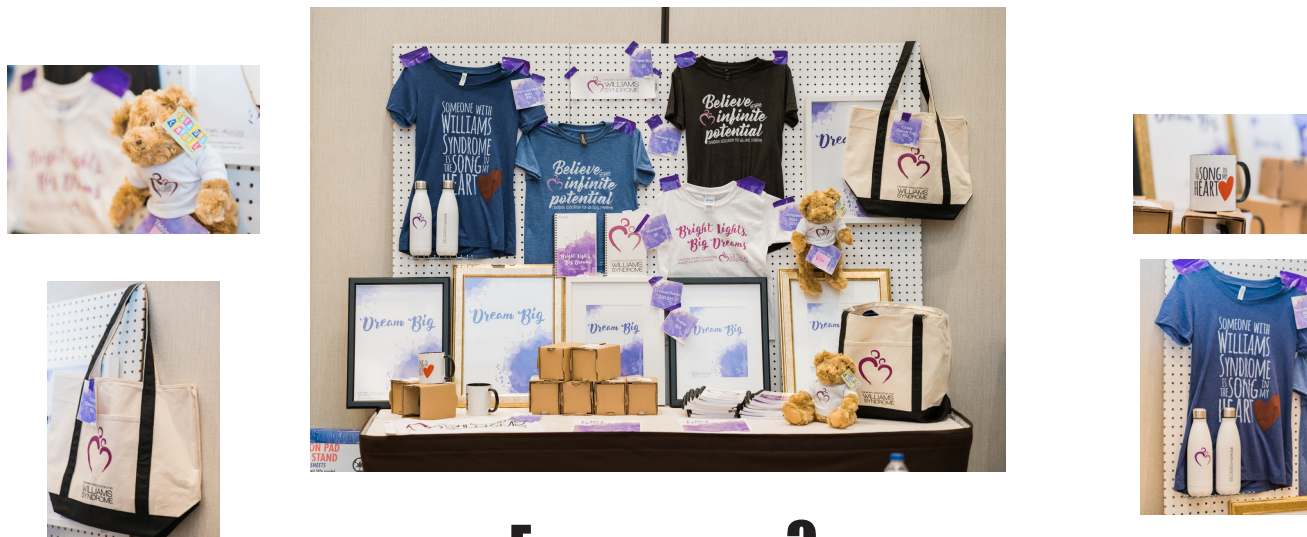


Diane Reid Gloria Mahussier



Alexis Fraser

**Thank you for your generosity in support of CAWS.**  
**Your personal commitment is incredibly helpful in helping the Association do our work.**



**Forgot something?**

Give Melanie a call to purchase CAWS merchandise.

*Have you considered becoming a Dream Maker*



**DID YOU KNOW QSP is more than just magazines?**

When you order through the QSP magazine program, over one-third of the subscription price “stays at home” to support CAWS. Go to: [www.qsp.ca](http://www.qsp.ca), enter our Group ID **3737673**, click SHOP NOW, click ‘Skip This Step’ and see what QSP has to offer **to place your order.**

CAWS is registered with CanadaHelps.org. CanadaHelps.org is a one-stop shop for Canadians to donate and fundraise online for any registered Canadian charity.

You can donate by visiting: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/879205516RR0001-the-canadian-association-for-williams-syndrome/>



**FLIP GIVE**

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Your purchases donate to CAWS!



**Thank you for your generosity in support of CAWS.**  
**Your personal commitment is incredibly helpful in helping the Association do our work.**

***In memory of Dr. Lou B. Lukenda:*** Northwood Funeral Home Staff, Mark Santana Dentistry, Toni Lukenda, Dr. Bridget Lamberts, Ron & Donna MacKenzie, Paul & Michelle Orlando, Dr. Joanne Lamberts Sally Malloy, Trevor & Julie Zachary, Gary & Leila Carson, Ralph & Shirley Caria, Peter Ruicci, Perry & Anne Vilaca, Carlo & Lillian Fronzi, Beverly Teller, David & Elizabeth Saunders, Bryan and Lorie Bellini Elaine Sauve, Amy Barbarie, Christine Van Laar, Dr. Maryann Majic & John Kusnierczyk, Jason & Patricia Cook, Peter & Jan Gagnon, Richard & Pauline Thomas, Zenna & Richard Metcalfe, Todd & Danielle Brown, Jason & Lisa Tomas, Michael & Pat Nanne

***In memory of Norman Jordan:*** Claire Labbie, Cindy Morrice, Wes & Val Sinclair, Dave & Sharon Verot Tom & Gail Minard

***Comedian night*** in Plamondon, AB: Bailey Walsh

***Tribute to Thomas Rebmann:*** Tony Cifelli

***NWM Private Giving Foundation*** Bruce & Kathryn Hitchen

***On behalf of Nova Scotia Power Incorporated:*** Jodie Connors

***On behalf of employee Enterprise Rent a Car Foundation:*** Janice Anderson

The Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited as part of their building community initiative to help staff maximise their donations: Amelia Chanderpaul

Manitoba Hydro, United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, United Way Centraide, United Way of Central Alberta Society, Ontario Power Generation Employees Charity Trust, My Tribute Gift Foundation

*Andre Fournoyer*, Lorette, MB **Bronze sponsor**

*Blaise and Michelle Dobbin*, Sackville, NB **Bronze sponsor**

*Joshua Svatek and Ajana MacBride*, Ottawa, ON **Platinum sponsor**

*Jean and Don MacDonald* Grand Forks, BC **Silver sponsor**

*Dream Makers*

# Dream Makers

*Andre Cournoyer*, Lorette, MB **Bronze sponsor**

*Helen Deckert* Kitchener, ON **Bronze sponsor**

*Blaise and Michelle Dobbin*, Sackville, NB **Bronze sponsor**

*Nunzio Venuto* Toronto, ON **Bronze sponsor**

*Sharon McPoll* Edmonton, AB **Silver sponsor**

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*Marianne & David Newton* Lower Coverdale, NB **Silver sponsor**

*Wandrienna Everdiena Shibley* Calgary, AB **Silver sponsor**

*Stephan & Elaine Wisemen* Dundas, ON **Silver sponsor**

*Winnipeg Group Sales Office, Great-West Life* Winnipeg, MB **Gold sponsor**

*Kelly, Donovan, Lexi Fraser* Prince Albert, SK **Platinum sponsor**

*Carol & David Lajoie* Grand Forks, BC **Platinum sponsor**

*Joshua Svatek and Ajana MacBride*, Ottawa, ON **Platinum sponsor**

*Jean MacBride*, Cumberland Centre, Maine **Platinum sponsor**

*Claudia & Markus Rebmann* Woodbridge, ON **Platinum sponsor**

*Jim & Diane Reid* Calgary, AB **Platinum sponsor**

*Fraser & Orvella Small*, High River, AB **Platinum sponsor**



*Have you considered becoming  
a  
Dream Maker*

We would like to help make dreams come true by committing to CAWS.

*Dream Maker* level of \_\_\_\_\_

For a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in celebration of or \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please submit your story separately with photos if possible and elaboration of the occasion)*

Date:

Name:

Phone #:

Address:

Email:

**Do you feel like making dreams come true? You can help dreams come through by giving to CAWS Dream Makers. Your donations to Dream Makers goes to research, scholarships and our national Family conference. Thank you!**



## FAMILY Dream Maker

Level	Dollar Amount	Family Reward
Platinum	\$2000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 a year for 2 years  <input type="checkbox"/> Recognition on CAWS website  <input type="checkbox"/> Your story in newsletter (CAWS will help you to write your story)  <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel room for 2017 Family Conference 3 nights (Conference room rate)
Gold	\$1500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 a year for 3 years  <input type="checkbox"/> Recognition on CAWS website  <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel room for 2017 Family Conference 1 night (Conference room rate)
Silver	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 a year for 5 years  <input type="checkbox"/> Your story in newsletter (we will help)  <input type="checkbox"/> Recognition on CAWS website
Bronze	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 a year for 5 years  <input type="checkbox"/> Your story in newsletter (we will help)  <input type="checkbox"/> Recognition on CAWS website

# F Y I

What you need to know

## Williams Syndrome Music Camp Toronto ON

Our community has been given a fantastic opportunity.

I've recently become acquainted with Sina Fallah of Ryerson University in Toronto. He is a music educator with a degree in psychology and has dedicated himself to developing musical education methods for individuals with a variety of exceptionalities. He currently runs several such programs and is very interested in starting a music camp for individuals with Williams syndrome in Toronto. Sina will take on the "music" part of the camp but is hoping we will look after the logistical side.

**TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN**, a team of committed individuals needs to be assembled. There is a lot to be considered; housing, meals, fundraising, promotion etc. Someone with experience in a similar venture or with managerial/organizational skills is especially needed.

I urge you all to take a minute and check out Sina's bio (links below). His dedication and passion for running special music programs is obvious and he is very keen on working with children with Williams syndrome.

I think you'll agree with me that we have a golden opportunity to create something really special; an amazing, world class Williams Syndrome Music camp for our kids.

Let's not let this get away. If you would like to get involved, have suggestions or just want to discuss, please email me at [chmilarrick@yahoo.ca](mailto:chmilarrick@yahoo.ca) or phone me at (705) 693-5003.

If my father-in-law answers please understand that he is confused and I will NOT get the message - please just phone back a little later.

Rick Chmilar  
*Music Camp Scholarsip Coordinator*

**Sina Fallah bio:**  
<http://smartlaboratory.org/portfolio/sina-fallah/>  
<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/sina-fallah-17757956>

## Ability Online

Ability Online is a Canadian Charity helping young people (and young adults into their 30's and 40's) with disabilities connect for friendship and support through our safe and monitored online community. Members are inspired by role models and mentors, they are empowered by information, they gain the confidence to discover their potential, and most important of all, they know that they are not alone.

Membership is free. Participants register with the site using their first and last name as their username. This information is verified by a phone call - a safety practice which has kept our site incident free for over 25 years. The site is divided into age groupings

(kids and teens, young adults) and by role (parents and professionals, further divided into education and healthcare professionals).

For our community partners like CAWS, we have private e-communities created just for your members to access. To start we have created a Williams syndrome forum for the young people to access, and we can also create one for the parents.

To register, or for more information go to [www.abilityonline.org](http://www.abilityonline.org) or email the Executive Director, Michelle McClure at [michelle@abilityonline.org](mailto:michelle@abilityonline.org)

## Missed the Conference?

All sessions held at the Conference are available electronically. For a copy please contact your provincial director or any member of the executive. A special thanks to AV Strategies for making this available to all families.

Thank you to Joviss Visuals for taking all Conference photographs and compiling a digital library of the collection. For a copy please contact your provincial director or any member of the Executive.

**Visit our website**  
<http://caws.sasktelwebhosting.com>

You're invited to a

# CAWS Saskatchewan Family bowling & get-together

Let's all come together for a friendly chat and fun with a game of 5-pins bowling. Lights will be soft and sound volume will be toned down. Bumpers pads for the beginner players. Contact me for more information.

**Where:** Hunters Bowling Center – Eastview

2029 Louise Street East, Saskatoon

**When:** Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 1:30pm to 3:30pm

**RSVP:** Please RSVP before October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Nathalie Bérubé:

home: 306-382-5764,

text: 306-290-1148,

email: nathberube@yahoo.com



## *Joey Goes to Camp continued.*

Students at BHMA take part in The Best Buddies program where they are partnered with a student from a local college. Once a week they share fun activities such as camp fire sing-alongs, play games, or share a meal. Joey has developed a very special bond with his Best Buddy who he chats with on the phone. She is like a sister to him.

Last year, Joey volunteered to write and present a 10 minute speech to a class of over 100 students at UMASS on 6 positive characteristics. They rewarded him with a standing ovation. Joey would love more speaking engagements in the future.

At home, we are enjoying an empty nest. My husband and I spend time together doing things we love and eating our favourite foods without having to put Joey's needs first. I didn't realize how much we modified our

lifestyle to accommodate Joey until he went off to college. I am now enjoying some hobbies that were put on the back burner a few decades ago.

Don't get me wrong – we look forward to our daily FaceTime chat with Joey, but after 20 plus years of living with Barney, I don't miss that dinosaur! I was so happy he went to college with Joey!

Like many parents, we have been on a roller coaster ride. We have found that the hard days have become fewer and the joys of life have grown with Joey. When we received Joey's diagnosis all those years ago, it wasn't presented in the best light, but our lives have been greatly enriched by Joey. It has been a true blessing to be Joey's advocate and experience the world through his eyes.

Sue  
*Joey's mother*

# it's happening here



**October 21, 2017**

*Hunters Bowling Center – Eastview, 2929 Louise Street East, Saskatoon, 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Please RSVP before October 15<sup>th</sup> to Nathalie Bérubé: home: 306-382-5764, text: 306-290-1148, email: nathberube@yahoo.com*

***What is happening in your province? Give your provincial contact a call!***

## **Visit our website**

**[http://caws.](http://caws.sasktelwebhosting.com)**

**[sasktelwebhosting.com](http://caws.sasktelwebhosting.com)**

## **Follow us on Facebook**

**Williams Syndrome Support Group - Canada**

## **Newsletter CONTRIBUTIONS**

Next deadline January 15, 2018. Please send your contributions for future newsletter to : **Gloria Mahussier, 19 Pereverzoff Place, Prince Albert, SK. S6X 1A8 E-mail: mahussier.m@sasktel.net**

CAWS newsletter is published quarterly. Due to limited space, we may not be able to print every item received. We report items of interest relating to WS and will provide a forum for other items of interest. CAWS does not promote or recommend any therapy, treatment, professional system, etc. The Editor reserves the right to edit all material.

## **Moving?**

**Please send your address changes and corrections to Mike at: [mmahussier@sasktel.net](mailto:mmahussier@sasktel.net)**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN SUPPORT OF CAWS.  
YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT IS INCREDIBLY HELPFUL  
IN HELPING THE ASSOCIATION DO OUR WORK.

# YOUR DONATIONS TO CAWS WILL GO TO RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIPS and OUR FAMILY CONFERENCE.

*have you considered becoming a Dream Maker*

*from the editor:* Thank you to **Rhonda Levesque, PA Fast Print** for securing another year's donation of paper from Unicsource Inc., Saskatoon for the CAWS newsletter. The deadline for next issue is **January 15, 2018.**  
Gloria Mahussier

## DONATION FORM

Attached is my cheque payable to CAWS in the amount of:

- \$100                       \$65                       \$35
- AS A MEMORIAL TO \_\_\_\_\_
- A TRIBUTE TO \_\_\_\_\_
- ON THE OCCASION OF \_\_\_\_\_  
(Birthdays, Anniversary, Graduation, etc.)

**All donations may be forwarded to:  
CAWS National Office,  
P.O. Box 2115, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3T5**