Chair’s Report

I would like to begin by thanking you, our members, for your continued support and enthusiasm towards your local Chapter and for your passion towards nursing and health care. This past year, we saw more members than ever before at our chapter events. Your presence and involvement in chapter activities is what makes the work we love to do come alive.

2012 is looking like it will be another great year for the chapter. Some exciting opportunities that are happening this spring are:

- In March 2012, Alisha Aggarwal and Carole Caron, ad-hoc members of your Executive will attend RNAO’s 13th Annual Day at Queen’s Park and RNAO’s Assembly meeting related to Policy and Political Action. This popular political event provides an opportunity for 200 members to meet one-on-one with MPPs and their staff to address everything from nursing employment to changes in our health-care system to poverty. This event will be extra special, as Leanne Siracusa will receive the prestigious RNAO Leadership Award in Political Action!

- On April 27, 2012, voting delegates, representing your voices, will attend the RNAO’s 87th Annual General Meeting in Toronto. This year will be make for an interesting event, as voting delegates will vote for several new Board of Director positions, and many resolutions and bylaws which will guide the direction of your Association. As always, two keen nursing students will be sponsored to accompany us.

- I know that many of you are continually speaking out for health and nursing in daily lives. We encourage you to consider attending this year’s Annual General Meeting. Not only will you get a chance to network with members from across the province, many of RNAO’s Interest Groups hold their Annual General Meeting in conjunction with these business meetings. For more information and to register, visit: [http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=1224&SiteNodeID=146](http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=1224&SiteNodeID=146)

- If you are interested in becoming more involved with the RNAO, and in particular your local Chapter, I encourage you to consider running for a position on the executive. We currently have two vacancies: Co-Chair and Policy & Political Action Officer. A position on the executive is a great way to engage with colleagues and to contribute to the advancement of nursing and health care. Elections for these positions will be held at the beginning of the evening on March 22, 2012 (see Upcoming Events for details).

Continued Next Page....
Chair’s Report  continued…

- Your chapter executive has some great speakers planned for our 2012 meetings that we hope you will value. We want chapter events to be as meaningful for you as they are to us and always value hearing your feedback. We hope you’ll join us at upcoming events, including our annual dinner in celebration of Nursing Week and that you will let us know what we can do to ensure your needs are being met.

Finally, before I close, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a great deal of gratitude to Jan Glancy, our outgoing Co-Chair. Jan is an incredible advocate for nursing, nurses and significant community issues such as poverty and the environment. During her time as Co-Chair, Jan was heavily involved in local poverty reduction initiatives on behalf of our Chapter. Jan helped to organize and lead many Chapter events including a collaborative showing (with PAIRO, the Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Ontario) of Michael Moore’s documentary ‘SICKO’ in 2008, a panel presentation titled “Poverty Reduction: Supporting a Healthier Community” in collaboration with the Hamilton Chapter of the Gerontological Nursing Association in 2009, and our most recent “Pre-Election Dialogue with the Candidates”, prior to the 2011 provincial election, to name just a few. Jan understood the importance of partnership with others and collaboration was certainly a theme in her work as Co-Chair. We saw the formation of many valuable partnerships as a result of Jan’s efforts. The end of Jan’s term as Co-Chair means a significant loss to our Chapter, but a huge gain for the organizations with whom she will continue her advocacy work.

Thank you, Jan, on behalf of the RNAO Hamilton Chapter executive and members alike. Your sense of humour, energy and enthusiasm, dedication and commitment towards the RNAO Hamilton Chapter will be missed by many.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter. It is full of information related to Chapter activities – past, present, and planned for the year to come as well as multiple opportunities for you to get more involved in the chapter. You can continue to obtain current Chapter event information throughout the year by visiting: http://chapters.rnao.org/hamilton/

With warm regards,
Lisa Richter

Membership News!

As of January 10, 2012, your Chapter membership includes 1054 RNs and 117 students! Help us grow this number by encouraging your colleagues to join.

Did You Know?...

...that when you successfully recruit a friend or colleague for a new RNAO membership, you earn recruitment rewards? For each new RN you sign up, you will receive $20, and for each student, you receive $5 to spend on RNAO products and services – just have them include your name and/or RNAO number with their registration. “Get 7” new RNAO RN members, and your next year’s RNAO membership is FREE!

We also encourage you to complete our membership survey, which you will see coming your way in the very near future. RNAO prides itself in being a member driven organization. We value your input, so will be asking you about what activities and services are most important to you, our Chapter members.
A Year in Review...


Political Action

• Voting Delegates are preparing for the upcoming 2012 RNAO Annual General Meeting.
• RNAO’s Annual Day at Queen’s Park and Political Action Assembly to be attended by Chapter members Alisha Aggarwal and Carole Caron in March 2012.
• Leanne Siracusa, Susan Tam and Lisa Richter to give an oral presentation at the 6th National Community Health Nurses of Canada Conference (2012). “More than a One Night Stand: Strengthening CCHN Standards and Political Action” will reflect on our Chapter’s efforts to host a pre-election dialogue with candidates prior to the provincial election, and the community partnerships formed in doing so.
• “Pre-Election Dialogue with the Candidates” was a successful event, held at the Spectator Auditorium, on September 14, 2011.
• May 2011- Chapter members accompanied MPP Paul Miller (to St. Joseph’s Centre for Ambulatory Health Services) and MPP Sophia Aggelonitis (to Hamilton Health Sciences, Juravinski Hospital) during RNAO’s annual Take Your MPP to Work week.
• Chapter is continuing involvement in the letter writing campaign related to equalization of the Child Tax Benefit.
• Leanne Siracusa continues to attend 25-in-5 meetings regularly on behalf of the RNAO Hamilton Chapter.

Communication

• Organized Nursing Week Supplement in the Hamilton Spectator, in celebration of Nursing Week 2011. Plans are underway for 2012.
• Chapter Newsletter published annually.
• Chapter is working to refresh our chapter webpage, which includes a calendar of events. Site is linked to our facebook page (a work in progress).
• Coming soon: RNAO Hamilton Chapter membership survey. Please let us know how we can best meet your needs by completing the upcoming online survey.

Members Services

• Planning has begun for 2012 events (see “Upcoming Events”).
• October 2011 - Lawyer Tim Hannigan joined the Chapter for a presentation on “Electronic Documentation: Nursing Issues & Legalities.
• September 2011 – Membership Assembly, focused on topics related to membership, recruitment and retention, attended by Susan Tam and Lisa Richter.
• July 2011: Chapter Education Bursaries awarded to: Rebecca Ganann, Heather Payrastre. and Aric Rankin.
• May 2011 – 7th Annual Nursing Week dinner held. Dr. Catherine Tompkins presented “Einstein Meets da Vinci: Recapturing the Art of Nursing”.
• April 2011 – Informational event held for Chapter members related to the Legal Assistance Program.
Annual General Meeting Reflection from our Sponsored Student

Submitted by Jin Hee Lee, Level 2 BScN Student

I was absolutely honoured to attend the AGM in April. Being able to watch as change happened, opened my eyes and taught me that real change occurs when people with passion and drive come together. Going into it, I really didn’t know what to expect but I met so many inspiring nurses and got to interact with equally devoted nursing students. As such, being a first year student at that time, my experience at the AGM gave me courage, excitement and hope for the career I am about to embark upon. Now in second year, I am able to make the connections of change and upstream thinking. Learning about the social determinants of health enabled me to realize that improvement in population health is possible. This is what I witnessed at the AGM - real nurses working at the policy level to make changes that will ultimately improve the health of the population at large. I will never forget the experience.
2011 Award Winners

Hamilton Chapter Education Bursary
(Value: 2 x $250)

To provide an opportunity for a Registered Nurse member of the Hamilton Chapter of RNAO who is pursuing formal education related to the practice of nursing at the Baccalaureate, Masters, or Doctoral level.

We are pleased to announce this year’s award recipients: Rebecca Ganann is currently completing a PhD and a Diploma in Health Services and Policy Research at McMaster University. In addition to being a doctoral student, Rebecca is a research coordinator with the Effective Public Health Practice project and a part-time lecturer in the School of Nursing at McMaster University.

Her research interests include population and public health, immigrant women’s health, perinatal health, addressing health inequities, and evidence-informed practice and policy. Rebecca is passionate about teaching and plans to pursue a research program in immigrant women’s postpartum health and develop effective programs and policies to meet their unique needs.

Heather Payrastre is pursuing her Master’s degree by correspondence through the University of Victoria.

As a nursing student, she was inspired by her professors’ lessons about caring for people and the holistic perspective that is fundamental to nursing care. Heather graduated both enabled and empowered to impact the world around her in a positive way. She has primarily worked in the areas of pediatric acute and palliative care, but also has experience on emergency response teams and instructing students for their clinical placements. Heather is extremely excited to engage in nursing research and focus a career in nursing education.

Lauren Packer Memorial Award for Child and Family Centered Care
(Value: 1 x $250)

To provide an opportunity for a Registered Nurse member of the Hamilton Chapter of RNAO who is pursuing continuing education or projects that focus on, or are underpinned by the concept of Child and Family Centered Care. The inaugural award has been awarded to Aric Rankin.

Aric Rankin is working towards his Nurse Practitioner Certificate and Masters in Nursing degree at the University of Windsor. His interest in working with children and families began as an adolescent when he volunteered as a camp counsellor with Camp Trillium. Here, Aric offered care to children and families affected by childhood cancer. He was inspired to provide child and family centered care within the primary health care setting through his experiences in a paediatric medical day unit and a children’s emergency department. Aric’s future goals include joining a Family Health Team to provide care to those who live in underserviced areas within Ontario, continuing to be an active advocate for the nurse practitioner role and the nursing profession, and volunteering internationally with the Canadian Medical Assistance Teams.

Congratulations to all of our 2011 award recipients!!!

For further details and to download an application for the bursary, due by June 30th of each year, please visit: http://chapters.rnao.ca/hamilton/
Remembrance Day 2011

Submitted by: Janet Rush, RN, PhD

RNAO's Hamilton Chapter maintained its tradition of laying a wreath to honour military nurses at the November 11th service at the War Plane Heritage Museum. Close to 3,000 people attended the event in the huge hanger amid WW2 planes and historical memorabilia. Poignant moments occurred with a fly-over by a Lancaster bomber and when the keynote speaker, a WW2 pilot, led the group in singing 'There'll be blue birds over the White Cliffs of Dover'. Laying of a wreath for nurses was not unnoticed by many who commented on nurses' remarkable contributions to Canada's military efforts, past and present. The Hamilton Chapter is implementing an initiative to create a new and symbolic wreath for future services.

Calling on nurse crafters!
The Hamilton Chapter is seeking a “crafty” nurse with artistic talent to help in the design of a wreath to be laid each year on Remembrance Day, at the War Plane Heritage Museum. We are envisioning a circular (approximately 18” in diameter) wreath that is lightweight (perhaps decorated with cloth or silk flowers, and embellished with red poppies). If you are looking for a way to express your artistic talent to help us honor military nurses and others, we would love to hear from you.

Please e-mail Janet Rush at: jrush24@cogeco.ca

Call for Nominees for Executive Positions

The following positions on the Hamilton Chapter executive are up for nomination in the year 2012. Do you want an opportunity to network with other nurses and have an impact on both local and provincial nursing issues? This is your chance! For more information on what your Executive has been accomplishing in the past few years, please visit our website at: http://chapters.rnao.ca/hamilton

Co-Chair
This position is held for 2 years and the primary responsibilities are as follows:
• Presides over Executive meetings;
• Provides leadership for Chapter Executive;
• Performs such duties as assigned by Executive;
• Attends Chapter Chair meetings twice annually.

Policy & Political Action Officer
This position is held for 2 years and the primary responsibilities are as follows:
• Provides leadership for policy and political action activities within the Chapter;
• Networks with other stakeholders, politicians, and LHINs;
• Uses policy documents and position papers to support political action activities;
• Forwards advice on emerging issues to the Health and Nursing Policy Department and provide input/feedback on policy issues as requested;
• Attends Annual (Jan/Feb) Day at Queen’s Park (1-day) and Political Action Assembly (1-day)

Elections for the above positions will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, 2012 (Upstairs at Fortinos, 1579 Main Street West)
The Heart of Motivational Interviewing: A Person-Centered Approach to Cessation

**Date:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 (Art Gallery of Hamilton)  
**Time:** 8:30-4:30 p.m.  
**OR**  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 (Brantford Golf & Country Club)  
**Time:** 9:30-4:30 p.m.

**Presenters:** Jennifer Mitton, RN, PhD & Jan Johnston, RN, BScN

**To register:** [http://www.surveymoney.com/s/MI_Registration_2012](http://www.surveymoney.com/s/MI_Registration_2012) or for more information, contact Jan Johnston at 905-546-2424, ext 1974

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**Enough is Enough: Ending Horizontal Violence in Nurses’ Workplace**

**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012  
**Time:** 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Fortinos (Upstairs), 1579 Main St W, Hamilton

**Guest Speaker:** Claire Mallette, BScN, MScN, PhD, Associate Professor and Director, School of Nursing, York University, Panel Co-Chair of the RNAO BPG “Workplace Health, Safety and Well-Being of the Nurse”

In 2009, the RNAO introduced the Best Practice Guideline “The Prevention of Violence in the Workplace”, which provides evidence to inform nurses and organizations, on how to recognize, prevent and intervene in workplace violence. Join us on March 22nd to learn about the vital roles we can all play in creating and sustaining a safe and healthy workplace for nurses.

**Register today as space is limited!**

Contact: Susan Tam (Membership & Services Officer) at stam@rnao.ca or (289) 242-2841.

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**Colleagues meet at the 87th Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** Friday, April 27, 2012  
**Location:** Toronto Hilton Hotel

For more information, visit: [www.rnao.ca](http://www.rnao.ca)

Thank you to the following members who will be participating as our 2012 Voting Delegates: Nicki Desprey, Dianne Husbands, Patricia Mlekuz, Irene Molenaar, Leanne Siracusa, Susan Tam, and Stephanie Williams.
8th Annual Hamilton Chapter Nursing Week Dinner

Date: Friday May 11, 2012
Time: Cash Bar: 5:30pm  Greetings & Dinner: 6:00pm  Presentation: 7:00-9:00pm
Location: Carmen’s Banquet Centre  1520 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton
Guest Speaker: Judy Suke DTM

Motivational Humorist, Professor, Coach, Author
Hear Judy Suke, award-winning motivational humorist, professor, personal coach, author, mother, business owner, Mississauga Woman of the Year; District 60 Toastmaster of the Year; and Past-President of the Hamilton Chapter of the Association of Professional Speakers ... as she shares her ideas for handling the stress of our hectic world.

Topic: “Let Laughter Lighten The Load”
Ticket Cost: $40 members/non-members  (Students $30)
To purchase tickets, please contact: Lisa Richter at lrichter@rnao.ca or 905-627-5733.

Developing surveys and questionnaires: Basic points and pitfalls

Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 (7:00-9:00 pm)
Location: Fortinos, 1579 Main St W.
Guest Speakers: Janet Rush, RN, PhD & Sam Rush (Research Associate)
To register, please contact: Susan Tam (Membership & Services Officer) at stam@rnao.ca or (289) 242-2841

Developing Skills in Political Action...and having fun!
Submitted by: Leanne Siracusa, RN, BScN, MED (RNAO Hamilton Chapter Ad-hoc Exec Member; CHNIG Policy & Political Action Officer) & Nicole Ritz, RN, BScN (RNAO Hamilton Chapter Secretary)

The Hamilton RNAO Chapter boasts of a history of many successful events however election-related events were uncharted territory. We knew that this was a great opportunity to affect change and so, building on our previous advocacy efforts with local anti-poverty groups, Jan Glancy and Leanne Siracusa initiated planning for a political action campaign event.

Last spring (2011), Jan and Leanne found a number of enthusiastic Hamilton RNAO Chapter members (including Lisa Richter, Susan Tam, Nicki Desprey, Nicole Ritz, Wilma Andres and Yayra Amenudzie), who were keen and willing to “take a political plunge”, thus a working group was formed to work collaboratively with a variety of community partners and RNAO Home Office. Community partners, many of whom were members of the 25 in 5 Hamilton Network for Poverty Reduction, were involved in the network’s advocacy efforts to reduce poverty in the City of Hamilton. As a larger workgroup, we determined that the political event’s primary focus would focus on health and social issues, thus addressing the social determinants of health reflective of the first pillar of Creating Vibrant Communities: RNAO’s Challenge to Ontario’s Political Parties.

As the primary leaders for the event, the Hamilton Chapter RNAO sought out the endorsement of 10 “official” community partners. These partners included: the Social Planning and Research Council; 25 in 5 Hamilton Network for Poverty Reduction; Hamilton Chapter of the Gerontological Nursing Association; CARP; Ontario Association of Social Workers; McMaster Community Poverty Initiative; Hamilton CARES; Canadian Federation of University Women; Ontario Association of Child and Youth Counsellors; and Common Campaign Coalition. Representatives from three of these groups were active participants in the event’s planning process.

Continued next page
Developing Skills in Political Action...and having fun!
Submitted by: Leanne Siracusa, RN, BScN, MEd (RNAO Hamilton Chapter Ad-hoc Exec Member; CHNIG Policy & Political Action Officer) & Nicole Ritz, RN, BScN (RNAO Hamilton Chapter Secretary)

Continued from previous

With relatively little political experience, we brave nurses sought the advice of the very enthusiastic staff at RNAO Home Office. RNAO Home Office staff members were especially helpful in the art of strategizing to entice electoral candidates to participate in our event as well as marketing strategies to advertise our event as “the event” to attend. (We learned that candidates try to avoid public forums and debates, therefore we had to think creatively to address this challenge! We were so naïve!) Lynn Anne Mulrooney, Kayla Scott and Rob Milling provided the planning workgroup with extremely valuable assistance in regards to the process to effectively engaging electoral candidates and how to successfully launch a media campaign during regular teleconferences. On an “as needed” basis, additional staff members from RNAO Home Office were called upon to share their specific expertise. Our political action workgroup appreciated the on-going support as it awarded us greater confidence to host this political event, a process that initially seemed rather overwhelming. Some members of the 25 in 5 Network had had previous experience with candidates’ meetings such as the one we were planning, thus these members were also a tremendous asset to our planning efforts. Through our collaborative work with community partners and RNAO Home Office, we also uncovered a number of different low-cost but effective marketing mediums to reach Hamiltonians and promote our event. 

“A Pre-Election Dialogue on Health and Social Issues” was held on September 14, 2011 with candidates running in the October 6th provincial election. Over 100 Hamiltonians attended our political event and both candidates and attendees provided extremely positive feedback. Radio interviews were conducted with Jan Glancy to discuss the Hamilton RNAO Chapter’s political platform as it related to our event. Our event was tweeted live during the evening, thus reaching those who were unable to attend. We did it!

Although workgroup members worked very hard to plan this event, we also had a lot of unexpected fun. Work group members opened their homes for meetings, and we became more acquainted with each other over wonderful food and a relaxed atmosphere. We shared a lot of good laughs and most importantly, each other’s company. A very different but welcomed twist to how we normally do our “business” was engaging partners from different sectors to actively participate in our planning meetings. This provided our Chapter with an opportunity to strengthen some existing partnerships and establish new ones. One of the main stressors associated with planning such an event, was the unknown commitment from the political parties. Even up to two days before the actual event, we were not confident that candidates would even attend or that all four parties would be represented. It was nerve-racking to say the least. However, it all panned out with the on-going assistance from RNAO Home Office. Candidates representing four political parties were in attendance that evening, ready to dialogue with their constituents. 

The political action workgroup members all agree that the effort and angst were well worthwhile. The event itself was a huge success with a full auditorium of eager Hamiltonians and outstanding dialogue with the candidates in response to our tough questions concerning Hamilton social and health issues. As a Chapter, we became stronger and more united. We believe that with our new-found courage and newly acquired political and media skills, we will be more inclined to take on new initiatives such as this one. This includes more political action - look out politicians!

“Pre-Election Dialogue with Candidates” sees a full house on September 14, 2011 in the Hamilton Spectator Auditorium.
ClinicalConnect™: Access to Patient Care Information for Nurses and Healthcare Professionals

Submitted by: Marzena Cran RN., BScN. I.T. Executive Network Officer

ClinicalConnect™ is a Web based secure portal or "Virtual EMR" designed to give physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals (HCP) secure, real time, anytime & anywhere access to their patients’ electronically stored records via the internet. The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN4) has adopted ClinicalConnect™ (CC) to integrate clinical data from hospitals within the LHIN and provide connectivity amongst HCP to enhance patient safety.

Over the last year, ClinicalConnect (CC) has evolved very quickly into a robust system for patient health information across LHIN 3 and 4, with over 2 million patients, 29 regional hospitals, and Oncology & CCAC records. The data is aggregated across 29 hospitals in Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Norfolk, Burlington, Brantford, Kitchener, Cambridge and Guelph as well as the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). Take a look at the ClinicalConnect Integration Status chart to learn more about the types of information that is aggregated into ClinicalConnect: [http://info.clinicalconnect.ca(body.cfm?id=137](http://info.clinicalconnect.ca/body.cfm?id=137)

This provides nurses and other health care professionals within the patient’s circle of care to access health information electronically, ultimately providing safer and more efficient care. CC has been a fundamental resource across our LHINs and has been used to make critical clinical decisions surrounding patient care that historically could only be made once a hard copy record was available. These critical care decisions have made significant positive patient outcomes. The healthcare teams across our LHINs are able to review a much more comprehensive patient electronic record including information that helps them;

- provide better and quicker consultations
- provide appropriate and timely treatments
- improves patient transition across the continuum of care
- reduce, eliminate or minimize duplicate medical tests

There are over 2500 ClinicalConnect users enrolled within LHIN 4 and this is growing quickly as the need for quick access to complete patient information is paired with quality patient care outcomes. We are seeing more requests for CC from HCP including; Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Pharmacists etc. as part of the care delivery team throughout the various communities of practice.

eHealth Ontario has announced a $5 million investment in ClinicalConnect.

To obtain access to CC via the process outlined on the site [http://info.clinicalconnect.ca/body.cfm?id=97](http://info.clinicalconnect.ca/body.cfm?id=97)

“eHealth for Every Nurse” - Get Updated on the latest! Take the RNAO Online eHealth Course!

Get your eHealth Certificate!! Nurses across our LHIN are becoming increasingly aware of technology initiatives such as the move towards an electronic health record and they want to learn more about how they can get involved within their various practice settings. In order to ready nurses across the province for the new age of eHealth, the RNAO is leading the way through the “eHealth for Every Nurse” initiative.

Click here: “eHealth for Every Nurse” or go to the RNAO site [www.RNAO.org/eHealth_course](http://www.RNAO.org/eHealth_course)
The RNAO Leadership Award in Political Action goes to...
Submitted by: Susan Tam, RN, BScN, Hamilton Chapter Membership & Services Officer

The Hamilton Chapter is pleased to announce that, our very own, Leanne Siracusa is the recipient of RNAO’s Leadership Award in Political Action. Leanne first joined RNAO in 1978 and has been an active RNAO member for over 24 years. It is evident that Leanne is proud to be a member of her professional association as she always wears her gold RN lapel pin and encourages her nursing colleagues and students to join RNAO at every opportunity she finds.

Leanne is a faculty member at McMaster University and currently holds leadership positions within the Association, including Policy and Political Action Officer on the executive of the Community Health Nurses’ Initiatives Group (CHNIG) and ad-hoc member of the Hamilton Chapter executive. Leanne is truly dedicated and works tirelessly in political action initiatives that have helped to positively profile the nursing profession as well as improve the health of individuals, groups and communities. Leanne is a strong advocate for social justice and poverty reduction. She communicates with MPPs, engages in media activities, works with community partners, and participates in RNAO events to lobby for anti-poverty initiatives, nursing and health care.

Leanne’s positivity and innovative thinking never fail to generate enthusiasm in others. She is an excellent role model for her nursing colleagues and students as evidenced by her strong commitment to and leadership in lobbying for nursing and health care through participation in RNAO. Congratulations Leanne, on behalf of the Hamilton Chapter!

Creating Access to Screening and Training in the Living Environment:
Hamilton Public Health Nurses Promote Cancer Screening
Submitted by: Nursing Professional Advisory Committee, City of Hamilton Public Health Services

Public Health Nurses from City of Hamilton Public Health Services, Cancer Prevention and Screening group along with McMaster School of Nursing, Brock School of Nursing, Halton Region Health Department, Niagara Regional Health Department, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit, Brant County Health Unit, Ontario Breast Screening Program, and the Canadian Cancer Society, are leading a promising new project known as the CASTLE project. CASTLE (Creating Access to Screening and Training in the Living Environment) is a collaborative project that evolved in response to a Public Health Agency of Canada funding proposal in the amount of almost one million dollars over two years. The project will promote cancer screening to low income housing communities in the Public Health regions mentioned.

Even in the event that funding is not received, Hamilton Public Health Nurses are ready to move forward with a pilot project in Hamilton which could lay the groundwork for future funding opportunities. Enormous community support has been received with over fifty organizations providing letters of support and in kind donations with an estimated value of $490,000. Recently an information sharing meeting brought together many interested people representing various sectors including health, housing, research academics, communication/social marketing, local businesses and community organizations. These partners will form a network to guide the project.

The CASTLE project will address the recommendations from a recent internal Chronic Disease Prevention situational assessment completed by Public Health Services to address barriers, raise awareness and promote cancer screening awareness for breast, cervix, and colorectal cancers in under or never screened priority groups. Recommendations included working with low income communities to address structural and systemic barriers through a multi-modal approach.

The project will consist of the development, implementation and evaluation of an innovative model to increase cancer screening in low income housing communities. This will be facilitated through a multi-sectoral advisory network and development of a multi-component intervention strategy that incorporates Community Health Workers.

Hamilton Public Health Nurses are committed to making our community healthier and our partnerships stronger through this innovative endeavor.

Contact Faye Parascandalo if you would like to know more about this project faye.parascandalo@hamilton.ca
Reflections on our 2011 Annual Nursing Week Dinner

This past Spring, May 8th-15th marked National Nursing Week 2011. The Hamilton Chapter celebrated nurses in style once again at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce on Friday, May 13, 2011. The evening began with wonderful conversation among friends and colleagues, while entertained by our very own nurse colleague and pianist, Suzette Mahabeer. After a wonderful dinner, members and guests were inspired while Dr. Catherine Tompkins shared with us her perspective on nursing as both an art and science, with a presentation titled “Einstein Meets da Vinci: Recapturing the Art of Nursing”.

The Chapter congratulated Gerry Benson on achieving Member Emeritus status, recognizing 40 years as a member of the RNAO!

Please join us once again this year, as we celebrate Nursing Week on Friday, May 11, 2011.

We are proud to host Tilda Shalof as our guest speaker.
RNAO Hamilton Chapter Executive Committee

Co-Chair: Lisa Richter  lrichter@rnao.ca
Co-Chair: Vacant
Policy and Political Action Officer: Vacant
Communications & Public Relations Officer: Nicki Desprey  ndesprey@rnao.ca
I.T. Executive Network Officer: Marzena Cran  mcran@rnao.ca
Financial Officer: Irene Molenaar  imolenaar@rnao.ca
Membership & Services: Susan Tam  stam@rnao.ca
Secretary: Nicole Ritz  nrjit@rnao.ca
Student Representative: Shirley Meng  mengy4@mcmaster.ca
Student Liaison: Tammy Anderson  tanderson@rnao.ca
Region 3 Representative to the RNAO Board of Directors: Donna Rothwell  drothwell@RNAO.ca

Ad-hoc executive members: