



Down Syndrome Association of Ontario

Press Release

The Down Syndrome Association of Ontario presented its Achievement Award to Andy Loebus on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at its annual convention in Peterborough.

Andy was recognized for his work in developing the Down Syndrome Research Institute Summer Schools and Homework Clubs for individuals with Down syndrome in the London area.

Three years ago, Andy began with a summer school for eight teens in a London high school. In 2006, a program for elementary school-aged students was added. In the summer of 2007, DSRI ran programs for preschoolers, elementary and secondary students. A total of 40 students attended these school programs in 2007.

The curriculum for the different age groups included communication, literacy, numeracy, drama, physical education, scrap booking and field trips on Fridays.

Andy's staff consisted of speech pathologists, occupational therapists, teachers and educational assistants.

As one might expect, a lot of year-round work goes into running this type of endeavour. Fundraising includes holding a dance-a-thon, contacting service groups, and soliciting corporate sponsors. Staff recruitment and planning are crucial.

Andy was nominated for DSAO's Achievement Award for his awesome vision, incredible energy and initiative in creating opportunities for young people with Down syndrome.

Sincerely,

Donna Wright
President
Down Syndrome Association of Ontario
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