

Volume 6 Issue 1
Spring 2005
The latest
Road Report
from . . .



THE
RoadAhead
SOCIETY OF CALGARY
WWW.THEROADAHEAD.CA

FUTURE PLANNING RESOURCES FOR OUR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH A DISABILITY

Our Mission

The Road Ahead Society of Calgary is a family organization committed to supporting persons with disabilities to develop meaningful relationships in the community, to build positive lives, and to create their vision for a sustainable future.

OUR BOARD, STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

PRESIDENT

Kathy Stephens

DIRECTORS

*Jorgen Asserson
Janice Bushfield
Sheilagh Cook
Berta Fisher
Max Phillips
Elvia Twa*

CONTRIBUTORS

*Shelley Asserson
Darrell Cook
Bill Forman
Felicity Foster
Marg Meisner
Bonnie Pacaud
Robin Phillips*

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Jacqueline Armstrong

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Wendy Thomas

♥ ♥ ♥ *Straight from the heart . . .*

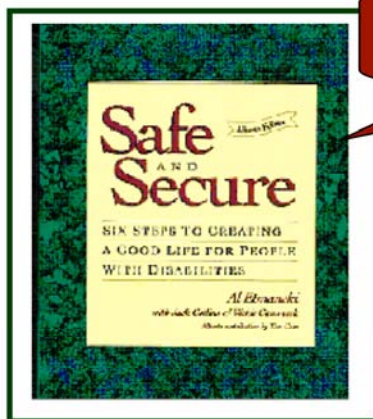
IN MEMORIAM

Brittany Danielle Otto-Stephens

Members and friends of The Road Ahead Society are deeply saddened by the news that Brittany Otto-Stephens, daughter of our president, Kathy Stephens and her husband, Danny, passed away on Friday, March 25, 2005 at the age of 18 years. Brittany was a fighter who faced each of life's challenges with courage and determination. Her greatest champions were Kathy and Danny who devoted their lives to ensuring that she had a good and meaningful life. Brittany chose her parents well - no daughter was more loved.

Brittany's greatest gift was teaching us what is truly important in life. Her unconditional love shone through her warm brown eyes and radiant smile. She enjoyed numerous activities including Disabled Skiing, Between Friends Club and the CP Association's Camp Horizon, a place she loved. A celebration of Brittany's life will take place at Camp Horizon on Thursday, March 31st at 2:30 p.m. *You are forever in our hearts, Brittany...*

**DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY YET?
IF NOT, ORDER IT TODAY!**



Safe AND Secure ALBERTA EDITION

SIX STEPS TO CREATING A GOOD
LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

\$29.⁹⁵

(plus S & H where applicable)

PROUD AFFILIATE OF



AND PARTNERS WITH

everyone  belongs™

THE TIES THAT BIND An Internet Documentary & Community Engagement Project

- ♥ On January 15th, our Lifetime Members, families, friends and facilitators came together for a **Strawberry Social**. OK, maybe a 'Strawberry Social' in the middle of January – especially in Calgary! – is a bit of a stretch but we can assure you that the berries were plentiful, the shortcake and punch delicious, the atmosphere warm and the friendship overflowing! We welcome new lifetime members and facilitators to join our celebrations!



- ♥ On February 18th, our president, Kathy Stephens and other lifetime members had the great pleasure of attending Calgary's premiere of **'The Ties That Bind'**, the National Film Board's award-winning documentary of the Jordan family from Ottawa. The film was part of Calgary's 4th Annual **"Picture This..."** Canada's first international disability film festival. It documents the Jordan's 3-year journey to create an enduring personal network around son and brother, Chris, and to fulfill his dream of moving out...and his parents' struggle to 'let go.' We hope to host a future screening of **"The Ties That Bind"** so stay tuned! In the meantime, you are encouraged to visit their interactive website at www.nfb.ca/tiesthatbind.

- ♥ On February 24th, **The RoadAhead Society** participated in Calgary PDD (Persons with Developmental Disabilities) Region's annual 'School Resource Fair'. Our display was visited by many families and professionals who learned about our vision and goals and had an opportunity to purchase PLAN Institute's **Safe and Secure – Alberta Edition** and their 'hot off the press' interactive CD, **Peace of Mind for you and your relative with a disability**.



Many parents were unaware that PDD Calgary Region imposed a funding freeze last fall for all but 'crisis' situations. The fact that our organization believes that government funding cannot and should be depended on to create 'a good life' for our sons and daughters, interested many who stopped at our display.

- ♥ March 7 to 11th, Jacqueline Armstrong, our new **Network Development Coordinator**, and Shelley Asserson attended Leadership Training in Abbotsford, BC hosted by **PLAN Institute for Citizenship and Disability**. The week focused on the information and skills required to develop and maintain a self-sufficient, parent-directed, future-planning organization based on PLAN's 15 years of experience. During the days, we heard about PLAN's approach to Leadership, learned how to develop and maintain networks through facilitation, discussed the strengths and challenges of family leadership, were enlightened on the concept of 'social entrepreneurship' and received practical advice on resource development, fund raising, communications and media strategies. Our evenings were equally full and fulfilling with a viewing of the National Film Board's **The Ties That Bind**, an overview of 'Philia' (an international dialogue on citizenship and disability) and a workshop called 'The Joy of Stress.' We were promised a week of reflection, 'slow thinking', nourishment, learning and inspiration – and PLAN delivered!

... for RAS Members:

- **Lifetime Family Mentor Coffees** will be held the **second Monday of every second month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** (March 14, May 09, July 11, September 12 and November 14.) Coffee get-togethers are relaxing opportunities to ask questions and share information about networks and anything else! *Daytime coffees are also in the works!*
- **Saturday, April 2nd, 2005: REFUELING OUR ENGINES! A Day with Nancy Ford** Banff Trail Community Association, 2115 – 20 Avenue NW. Facilitators are invited to spend the morning (9:15-12:15) with Nancy Ford from PLAN Institute. The afternoon session (12:30-5:30) is for Lifetime members, families, facilitators, board and committee members and staff.
- **RAS AGM** will be held on Saturday, June 18th at the Kahanoff Centre. Time to be announced later.

... for everyone in our community:

- **RAS Information Sessions** for potential members and network facilitators and anyone interested in learning about who we are, what we do and how to get involved. *If you are interested in attending an upcoming session, please contact the office (263-8226) for dates and times!*
- **Calgary Community Living Society** hosts an informal **Coffee Talk** on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. Call CCLS at 245-4666 for details.
- **Family Voices – Calgary Region** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Rocky Mountain Bible College. AACL's Family Voices network provides a powerful vehicle for families to connect with and support each other and to advocate as one voice for needed supports, services and funding. Call Lori at 717-0361.
- **A Family Summit 'From just ME to finding WE'** will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Murray Fraser Hall, U of C on Saturday, June 4, 2005. The event will bring families together, provide an opportunity to share success stories and celebrate inclusive communities in Calgary and surrounding areas. Contact Family Voices 717-0361 (ext. 3) or ladamchick@aacl.org for further information and registration.

EXCITING NEWS!

We are very pleased to announce that **Jacqueline Armstrong** is our new part-time Network Development Coordinator!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".

Margaret Mead – US anthropologist (1901 - 1978)

ASK RHODA!!!

Dear Rhoda –
 I've been wondering...how did you get your name? And what kind of questions can people ask you about?
 Signed –
 Curious in Calgary

Dear Curious in Calgary –
 Thanks for asking!! Several summers ago, we discovered that our annual picnic spot at a city park had been reserved under the name 'Rhoda Head'! After we stopped laughing (well actually, we haven't stopped laughing yet!), we decided to keep the name – and the sign! As for your second question, I'm here to help you on the "roadahead" regarding future planning so just ask!
 Cheers –
 Rhoda at THE ROADAHEAD!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

1. **Lifetime Member** (a Personal Network developed and maintained):

Initial Contribution	\$500
Annual Contribution	\$180

2. **General Family Member** (no Personal Network being developed or maintained)

Annual Contribution	\$ 25
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3. **Associate Member** (Non-voting)

Individual	\$ 30
Non-Profit	\$ 50
Corporate	\$250

WANTED!
PART-TIME NETWORK FACILITATORS

The Road Ahead Society of Calgary requires facilitators for approximately 4 to 6 hours per month to develop support networks for individuals who are socially isolated.

Successful candidates will:

- Have strong community connections
- Be a resident of Calgary
- Be willing to commit to a one-year contract
- Have good interpersonal and group skills

Salary is \$20.00 per hour. For further information and/or to submit your résumé, please contact:

THE ROADAHEAD SOCIETY OF CALGARY

Websites of interest:

- PLAN: www.plan.ca www.philia.ca
www.theworldcafe.com
- National Film Board's 'The Ties That Bind': www.nfb.ca/tiesthatbind
- everyone belongs: www.everyonebelongs.com
- Ashoka (Social Entrepreneurship): www.ashoka.org
- The Berkana Institute: www.berkana.org

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Board Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. at **Gibraltar Mortgage**, 1000 – 9th Avenue SW (3rd Floor Board Room.) You are welcome to attend as an observer. Call 263-8226 to confirm time and location. Our continued thanks to Gibraltar Mortgage for generously providing RAS with office and meeting room space!