

### THE ACTIVITY COMPLEX AT CAMP GARAGONA

The 3rd & last project in the current "From Caring to Curing" campaign of the foundation is the construction of an activity complex next to the new Pavilion, (Project No. 1) at Camp Garagona, in Frelighsburg near the US border. This complex will include a revamped & updated swimming pool, an adjacent water spray facility for those uncomfortable with using the pool, and a neighboring new Arts Building that will be able to accommodate all campers & staff at any one time. In 2016, generous donations from the Bank of Montreal, The Molson Foundation, The Peacock Family Foundation, The Chawkers Foundation, the Scowen Foundation and la Fondation Bergeron-Jetté have put this project on the verge of moving forward. Construction is now scheduled to begin in the fall of 2017, if the remaining amounts can be solicited from friends in the philanthropic community, and the campaign can reach its target amount of \$3.5 million.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

The year saw a revision of our multi-level scholarship programs. At the university level, the John A. Bryant Fund was transferred to the Faculty of Education, McGill University in order to create a scholarship program in perpetuity in his name. At the CEGEP level, bursaries were increased to \$2,000 from \$1,500 at each institution in the Townships, allowing for a second winner in each case. And the Massey-Vanier Secondary School in Cowansville was guaranteed funds for another 20 years. All 3 programs will now benefit needy students for many years to come.

### ROUGEMONT FARM RESPITE SERVICE

Due to the reorganization of the health system and resulting budget cuts, the Farm Service, located on the 100 hectare J. Armand Bombardier Farm, 1350 Rt. 112, just outside the village of Rougemont, had to absorb a \$20,000 annual cut in their operating budget. This put the service in jeopardy, so the Foundation felt compelled to make up the difference. This has allowed the farm respite service to maintain its support for the 50 families that use it on a regular basis. The organized activities around grooming, caring for and interacting with a wide assortment of small animals are a great hit with the clients, and a recognized form of individual therapy.

### OPERATION ENFANT SOLEIL

In 2016, the foundation received a grant of \$5,363 from Operation Enfant Soleil to purchase specialized equipment for families with disabled or autistic children, and for the specialized services offered by our public rehab establishment partner. As technology evolves, families and professionals continually find themselves challenged by new technology that could impact their clinical work and improve the lives of children at home and in public services. This important grant was well received by our partners and families in the community.



### PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This project, part of our current campaign, has been expanded to a 5-year project as opposed to the original 3-year period. This has allowed the clinicians to recruit considerably more families around the Province, over 500 to be exact, thus increasing the reliability and efficacy of its results, due in 2018. The J.A. DeSève Foundation remains a strong supporter of this project, as well as Hydro Quebec. Our public rehab partner in the region is strongly committed to this endeavor as the long-term benefits of eliminating or reducing negative social behavior on social integration and quality of life are widely acknowledged. This project, once completed, will help the public rehab network to better serve disabled children with severe behavioral problems, and lessen the burden on siblings and parents.

### CAMP GARAGONA

The Camp got a much needed \$15,000 grant from the Montreal Canadien Children's Foundation for the installation of a 14-station obstacle course on the site. This will greatly increase the range of outdoors activities for campers throughout the year and provide challenging exercises for the campers who are mobile. The Camp continues to work toward providing a wide range of activities to disabled and autistic campers in the summer, as well as during the rest of the year during daily, weekend or weekly visits.

Ron Creary  
Executive Director