



# BEREAVED FAMILIES OF ONTARIO

## Halton/Peel Chapter

An association of families who have lost children, siblings, parents or partners through death.  
*We are the bereaved helping the bereaved learn to live with grief—through hope and healing.*

Winter 2008

### PLEASE READ

#### URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF at BFO HP

As you are aware, BFO Halton-Peel receives absolutely no public funding. We continue to rely 100% on our volunteers and users for support. After numerous appeals and fundraising events, we simply and truthfully do not have the funds, nor the volunteer base required to sustain the organization beyond March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. With only three(3) volunteer part-time Board Members and two(2) part-time staff, we just cannot meet the commitments to run the organization in an effective manner to support 200 calls per month and 16 groups per year, plus, plus...

Regrettably, unless we get new volunteers and supporters and can fund raise \$100,000.00 before March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 **we will have to close our doors.** This will be our last appeal for help and support.

Although, the task may sound daunting it is not impossible if we all come together with family, friends and acquaintances'. To put things into perspective, there are a variety of ways in which the funding can be raised...\$100,000.00 equates to:

**5 corporate donations of \$20,000; 10 corporate donations of \$10,000;  
15 corporate donations of \$7,500; 20 corporate donations of \$5,000**

**50 small business donations of \$2,000**

**1,000 people donating \$100**

**500 people raising \$20 from 100 friends and family**



**RALLY EVENT:** We will be hosting a rally night on Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm -8:00 pm. Please join us to hear and discuss how you can help us. We need three(3) new Board members; a fund raising committee; inexpensive office space; printing and stationary support; event coordinators and committee members and professional advisors.

Over the past 20 years we have helped thousands of families deal with loss, if you believe in the value of this organization and want to see us continue in our mission, we ask that you help rally support from the entire community and more. **WE NEED YOUR IMMEDIATE SUPPORT AND HELP IF WE ARE GOING TO REALIZE OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY.**

Please contact the office where we have support packages available and to register for the Rally Event.

Thank you very much,  
Richard, Joanne, Jeff, Natasha and Helena

### Loved Ones Remembered

**Adrian Luis DiRaimo**  
Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005 – May 25<sup>th</sup> 2005

To our darling Adrian: Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday  
"Beautiful Boy"

Can't believe this is our 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas without you sweetheart; and you would have been turning 3. The void left in our family is almost unbearable. It comforts us to know that God knew you were just too good for our world, and wanted you to take your place in heaven. You are forever our guardian angel – our hearts will always be bursting with love for you. Until we meet again my precious little boy ..... Love you forever and always, miss you every second of every day.  
Mom, Matthew & Cristian xoxoxoxoxo

**Heather Sheppard**  
Dec 4th, 1958—July 10th, 2001

**Linda Hearn**  
Sept 8/59—Feb 4/00  
Love with a love beyond all telling.  
Missed with a grief beyond all words.  
Mum, Dad & Lori



**Kerri Hearn**  
Feb 14, 1992  
Our precious Kerri, we will always love and remember you.



Grandma, Grandpa Dunwoody, and Auntie Lori

**Doreen Pogue**  
May 11, 1949 - March 11, 2004

Special Thank you to Susan Rose, for the beautiful and artistic cards that have been donated to Bereaved Families. The pictures are amazing and your words are warm and thoughtful.  
Thank you so much



We reserve the right to edit submissions as needed. Submissions for April Newsletter must be received no later than March 14th, 2008.

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## Calendar of Events

Date & Time	Event/Meeting	Location	Messages
Jan 15th, 2008 @ 6:30pm Feb 19th, 2008 @ 6:30pm March 18th, 2008 @ 6:30pm	Board Meeting	BFO Office	
Feb 20th @ 7:30pm Feb 25th @ 7:00pm Feb 27th @ 7:00pm	Spousal Loss Children's 9-12 Child Loss	BFO Office	There is still spaces available in all groups
<i>-- Please join us for future Share and Support nights on the last Tuesday of every month --</i>			

The Loving Memory Tree was a stunning success this year. Thank you to all of the supporters, families and friends from our communities who attended. It was a night of much comfort, love, remembrance and connection. The highlights of the evening included a heartfelt speech by keynote speaker **Jamie Holtom**, and beautiful musical performances by pianist **Liz Fielding** and soloist/pianist **Heather Appleby**. **Richard Sheppard**, BFO Board Chair, gave the memorable opening and closing remarks and **Chantel Parkes** led as the MC. This year's ceremony recognized a treasured volunteer, Babs Hodgson. Babs, a bereaved mother and spouse, passed away in the summer of 2007. A tribute was read for Bab's at this year's ceremony, to honour and remember her life and legacy by **Shivana Ramsingh**.

Thank you goes out to **Malachi Peterson** for the lighting of the Tree, and his sister **Jahnay Peterson**, who recited the poem "We Remember Them" during the candle-lighting ceremony. Thank you to **Manjeet Bedi**, **Andrea Bastasin**, **Oscar Castillo** and **Ann Culbertson** for lighting the candles in memory of our beloved parents, siblings, children and spouses. We thank **Fred & Helena Stahls**, who graciously donated the candles, and **Debbie Blagojevic's granddaughters** for helping to distribute them. Thank you also goes to **Laura Taylor** for being a warm greeter for the evening, and to **Susan Rose** for donating her beautiful, handcrafted greeting cards as mementos. **Ross and Nancy Griffith** we thank you for helping to distribute the refreshments.

The event could not have been the success it was without the concerted efforts of the LMT committee members. A big **thank you** goes to **Elizabeth Cochrane**, **Sue Scarborough**, **Gloria Appleby**, **Chantel Parkes**, **Brenda Barnes**, **Andrea Bastasin** and committee chairs, **Natasha Barnes** and **Shivana Ramsingh**. BFO also thanks our supporters from City Hall, **Mike and Luba**, and **Turner and Porter Funeral Directors Ltd**, who helped so much with the behind-the-scenes coordination.

Next year's LMT will be held at Mississauga's City Hall, on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bereaved Families welcomes your talents and skills; if you are interested in helping this year, please contact Tasha at (905) 813-4337, or [natasha.barnes@bereavedfamilies.ca](mailto:natasha.barnes@bereavedfamilies.ca)



*Please join us February 23rd  
for our first 2008...  
Share and Support Night*



**"Honouring our Differences...our Individual Journeys"**  
**Guest Speaker: Marisa Jokelainen**

*"We intimately seem to understand how easily it is to connect with others who have suffered the loss of a loved one and yet we also recognize the unique and individual differences in each of our journeys. The journey of grief often moves us into uncharted territory bringing each of us unique challenges. We understand the sameness of grief and also profoundly understand its differences. Join us for an evening of discussion about how we can honour our differences and help others to understand our needs.*

**Spaces are limited**

**Please R.S.V.P by calling the office by February 12th, 2008  
Call the office for more Share and Support Topic and dates**

#### A Message From Helena

Volunteers are such a huge gift to this organization... Thank you to the following volunteers who helped BFO Halton Peel in supporting others. I am also happy to see that a couple of our new "facilitators" have stepped forward for 1:1's and are on board to co facilitate a groups already.

Gloria Appleby, Sheena Klaasen Anisa Cherchecki, Tamika Barnes, Rick Matthews, Anne Culbertson, Jody Bourke, Jeff Pogue, and Shivana Ramsingh.

Facilitators who conducted 1:1's: Carol Ann Ryan, Deborah Davidson, Kathleen Baranik, Laura Taylor, Paulette Cooling Manjeet Bedi and Theo Borg

Thank you!

