

Aquatic Wheelchairs in Action

Thank you to the Oakville Community Foundation, a registered charitable public foundation serving the community of Oakville, for the generous support allowing us to purchase an additional aquatic wheelchair.

[Oakville Beaver Article Here](#)

Group Photo

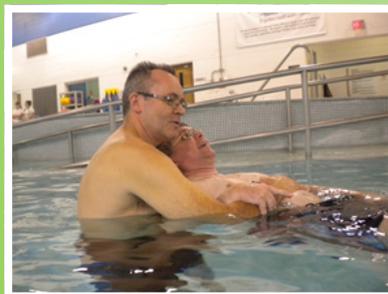


James, Diana, Carolyn (OCF), Rod, Colin
Andy, Dan

Down the Ramp



In the Pool



NEWS RELEASE

Oakville Community Foundation Funds Aquatic Wheelchair for Oakville Stokers

Every Friday at the Glen Abbey Community Centre, during 10-week sessions offered in the fall, winter and spring, The Oakville Stokers provides a program of recreation, socialization, and light aquatic exercise for stroke survivors. Each Friday begins with socializing and light refreshments, followed by low impact stretching and a one hour pool session with the help of volunteers. Participants then enjoy a group lunch, followed by card games, arts and crafts, and other leisure activities. The Oakville Stokers also present an Annual Christmas Luncheon and organize group outings such as bowling, pub lunches and theatre shows.

The program is designed to help stroke survivors overcome the aftermath of a stroke by revitalizing their sense of independence, mobility and overall well-being. At the pool, some of the program's participants require the assistance of a wheelchair to transition from the pool deck into the water. In order to accommodate additional participants with restricted mobility, the Oakville Stokers needed a second aquatic wheelchair. The Oakville Community Foundation, a registered charitable public foundation serving the community of Oakville, stepped forward with a grant to make the wheelchair a reality. The Oakville Stokers gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Community Fund at the Oakville Community Foundation.

This new submersible wheelchair, which was purchased locally at Medi-Chair Halton, will dramatically improve volunteers' ability to get program participants in and out of the pool efficiently in order to maximize pool time for as many participants as possible.

The friendly, dedicated group at the Oakville Stokers is always looking for willing volunteers who could assist in the pool for an hour each Friday. While a few of its volunteers have backgrounds in healthcare, most do not, so prior experience with stroke survivors is definitely not required. Come and see the program in action at the Glen Abbey pool on Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon, and if you would like to get involved, please contact Diana Berriman, Program Director, at (905) 842-8791 or Anita Zaphe, Volunteers' Representative, at 289-337-2603.

If space allows, the following additional information about The Oakville Stokers and the Oakville Community Foundation could be included

The Oakville Stokers is a registered, community charity operated by committed and long-serving volunteers in close cooperation with the Physiotherapy Department of the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department of the Town of Oakville, and the staff of Glen Abbey Community Centre. The Oakville Stokers was founded by a small group of Oakville residents in 1995 and became a registered charitable organization in 1998.

The Oakville Community Foundation was founded in 1994 and acts as a knowledge resource and a catalyst, bringing people and organizations together, to build and strengthen community philanthropy. The OCF receives and pools charitable gifts for endowments that benefit and strengthen the community at large by supporting all charitable sectors.