



June 2013 MDSS E-News

Issue #13

SAVE THE DATES



Sept. 29, 2013

See Me Beautiful Conference

November 4, 2013

Next Board Meeting September 18, 2013

Please consider coming out to meet your volunteer Board of Directors, share your thoughts, and learn how the board works.

***Have an idea for a new program or event?
Come with a proposal!***

*Wishing you all a
wonderful summer!*

A huge **Thank You** to the following Board Members who have left our Board to pursue other adventures.

Your years of service have been greatly appreciated:

Former President – Ken Hodges

Former Secretary – Debbie Hodges

Announcing Your 2013-2014 Board of Directors

President – Lorraine Baydack

Vice President – Val Surbey

Treasurer – Rick Sawyer

Secretary – Karen Nicholls

Directors

Colleen Evans

Alison Armistead

Olivia Hawrysh

David Hawrysh

Ruth Joseph

A Message from your new President

I am so pleased and honoured to represent the amazing families that make up the Manitoba Down Syndrome Society. Since our inception in 1991 by a few forward-thinking families, MDSS has grown into a community admired by other Provincial like-minded organizations for the wonderful work we do here in Manitoba. We can only carry this work forward with everyone's help. If we each do a little, a whole lot gets done. One of my goals as president is to have all families feel comfortable enough to take on a role, however small, with our group. So please, come to us with an idea, volunteer for an event, join a committee or maybe even join the Board! You'll make new friends, and you'll make a difference! I look forward to a productive, fun, and inspiring year to come.

Lorraine

2012 – 2013 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with mixed emotions that I write this message to the membership. I have decided after many years of sitting in the big chair as it were, that I will be stepping down from the President's position on the board. Although I have enjoyed serving our membership as President over the years, I feel it is time for someone else to take the lead and offer a new perspective as MDSS moves ahead with our valuable work on behalf of those with Down syndrome. With that in mind I would like to reflect on the growth and successes that we have enjoyed developing and putting into action.

In 2002 we were very excited to host the From the Heart National Conference in Winnipeg and in the blink of an eye 11 years went by and we again co-hosted the National Conference last month with CDSS. It was great to renew and catch up on friendships and make some new ones as well.

The board was concerned that there were not enough social opportunities for our teenagers and young adults so with the help of some great volunteers we were able to develop the Livewires group that has thrived over the years and has helped pave the way for our Buddy Night to offer even more social opportunities for this age group. We are always open to the idea of starting up another group for teens with the help of interested parents. As the interest of our Tulip Tee Off golf tournament waned over the years we were very fortunate to have people step forward to take on the idea of our Buddy Walk. We have enjoyed huge financial success with this event along with developing a wonderful way for everyone to get together and enjoy a full day of activities along with socializing with family and friends. I continue to be amazed at the level of support that MDSS receives from our sponsors and families with this event

The Family Day committee continues to plan fun events such as the Dinner & Dance which is always well attended, the Goldeyes game, and many other events that we have always been pleased to offer our members.

The See Me Beautiful conference and Baby Love are another two very important events which allow new families to be welcomed into MDSS and gain valuable information as they navigate their way through the challenges faced by the educational system.

I could go on and on about the wonderful growth and work carried out by MDSS but I would quickly run out of room. I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to all of our Board members, Volunteers and Family members that have helped us grow over the years and I know that MDSS will continue to benefit from their hard work in the future.

Thank you very much for your support!

Ken Hodges

Thank You Ken!