



GRAND ROUNDS

The Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre (OCTC) is celebrating 60 years devoted to helping families, children, youth and some adults coping with physical or developmental disabilities. On April 1, 2003, OCTC opened outreach clinical and support services on the RVH campus to serve families throughout the county closer to their homes.

Professionals from the local site have become part of the family, says Rayanne Patacairk, mother of five-year-old Liam. "They have such a big involvement in his life."

"One of the hallmarks of what we do is that we work together as a team," says Marjorie Button, a Speech-Language Pathologist who has been at the Renfrew site since its beginning.

Button and Ashley Wilson, an Occupational Therapist, work full-time out of the Renfrew office. Melissa Cormier, a Physical Therapist, travels to Renfrew twice each week to round out existing services and help address wait-time issues for families in the community.

"Children who were waiting eight to nine months for appointments are now only waiting about two months for initial

assessments," says Bonnie Grandy, Program Administrator for OCTC.

The Renfrew team supports clients through its Early Childhood Program, a specialized service geared towards children up to six years old.

Monthly visits from OCTC's Seating and Mobility team and Technology Services in Renfrew eliminate the need for local families to travel to the city for wheelchair assessments or educational software.

"We work very closely with families to understand their priorities and provide consults with their daycare or nursery school to help explain different ideas and strategies to enhance treatment," notes Button.

Button also provides services for the Clinic for Augmentative Communication, where children and young adults with severe difficulty speaking or writing can be provided with support and appropriate equipment to communicate.

Liam benefits from the expertise of each of the Renfrew staff—Button with his communication needs in the form of a

high-tech speech-generating device, Wilson providing fine motor skills therapy and Cormier assisting with his mobility issues.

OCTC is pleased to be partnering with RVH pediatrician Dr. Anne Rowan-Legg who will be able to identify potential special needs children in the community and refer parents directly.

"The opportunity to bring our staff resources to her is an exciting new initiative," says Grandy.

"We have worked hard to forge many partnerships in the community in the interest of integrating our service delivery with other services, which makes it easier and more accessible to families," points out Button.

That was the vision of the families who helped form what is now OCTC six decades ago, notes Anne Huot, the organization's Director of Client Programs and Information. In 1951, parents of children with cerebral palsy recognized a need for therapy and it was through their advocacy that there are now specialized academic programs and clinical services for children and youth with complex developmental and physical disabilities.

"We have stayed very true to the passions of those founding families and do all we can to continue to coordinate services to improve the lives of those children and increase our communities' capacity to include everyone," Huot adds.

"On behalf of everyone at the Renfrew Victoria Hospital, I would like to congratulate OCTC for 60 years of outstanding service. We are very proud of our partnership with this organization," says RVH CEO Randy Penney. "When we signed the agreement with OCTC to establish a clinic in Renfrew, our objective was to assist and provide local access to services in a truly integrated fashion. I want to thank the leadership at OCTC for their vision in supporting a satellite at RVH to meet the very special needs of Renfrew County patients. To those health professionals who provide the service: Congratulations on a job well done."



Rayanne Patacairk and her son Liam, with Melissa Cormier, OCTC Physical Therapist.