

**MEMBERS' VOICES: APRIL – AUGUST 2013**  
**Speaking out for nursing: Speaking out for health**

**SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Johnston c/o Windsor- Essex Chapter**

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**END: Engage with registered nurses and nursing students to stimulate membership and promote the value of belonging to their professional organization.**

- On April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, the Windsor-Essex Chapter hosted nursing documentation seminars at the Ojibway Nature Centre. These events featured Ann Tapp RN, BA, LLB, who is a legal advisor for the Canadian Nurses Protective Society. Over 100 local nurses took advantage of these free professional development sessions.
  - On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Chapter partnered with Kim Watson and the Complementary Therapies Nurses' Interest Group to host "*Complementary Therapies: Myth, Magic, or the Next Big Thing in Healthcare?*" at the Hospice of Windsor. This evening event featured the opportunity for nurses to interact with local practitioner, learn about the benefits of many different types of complementary therapies, and try a number of free mini-treatments for themselves. Over 50 nurses from across Region 1 attended this great event which also featured dinner, an engaging PowerPoint presentation by Kim Watson and the opportunity to network and mingle.
  - On April 26<sup>th</sup> the Chapter had the distinct pleasure of awarding the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lois A. Fairley Community Service Award in conjunction with the Fairley Family. Congratulations to this year's deserving winner Shauna Carter who is a Nurse Practitioner for the NP-led Outreach Program at Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital in Windsor. This accomplishment was featured in the RN Journal as well as a number of local newspapers and television broadcasts.
  - On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Windsor-Essex Chapter continued their annual tradition of supporting and congratulating nursing students who wrote the CRNE. Members of the Chapter collaborated with Faculty of Windsor Nursing Staff to present students with a congratulatory chocolate treat and information about the benefits of RNAO membership, as they finished their exam. The Chapter is very proud to welcome these bright and eager New Graduates to the profession.
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**END: RNAO advances the role and image of nurses as members of a vital, knowledge-driven, caring profession, and as significant contributors to health.**

- May 1<sup>st</sup> saw the publication of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National Nursing Week Special Feature Section in the Windsor Star. As always, the full colour publication celebrated the role of nurses at the forefront of affecting change in the quality of healthcare, education, research and beyond. It also served to share stories about how local nurses work to make a positive impact on their clients, patients, students, colleagues and the whole healthcare system. Thank you to the Windsor-Essex Chapter Executives & Members who worked on this huge endeavor in collaboration with the Windsor Star team. A special thank you to Lynda Monik – our hard working Communication Executive Officer who was our lead coordinator on this initiative.
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**END: RNAO speaks out on emerging issues that impact on nurses and the nursing profession, health and health care.**

- The Windsor-Essex Chapter collaborated with the Ontario Health Coalition and CAW Local 2458 to host an engaging panel discussion entitled, “(No) Time to Care” as part of Mayworks 2013. The panel consisted of Josie Watson (University of Windsor Clinical Instructor), Shelley Smith (PSW), Katha Fortier (CAW National Director of Health Care) and Jennifer Johnston (RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter President). Allison Johnson (CBC Journalist) did a phenomenal job moderating the event, which was held at Phog Lounge in downtown Windsor. The event was both a celebration and a defense of caring and an exploration of the challenges and problems that caregivers (both paid and unpaid) face in our current health system. Topics covered included: the devaluing of care in our current health care system, budgetary concerns re: health care, government politics that affect health care, care work as emotional labour, caring as the factor that differentiates treatment from healing, the hidden nature of care (as it often occurs in private areas to ensure confidentiality for those most vulnerable), the duty to care, the challenge of quantifying and measuring care (as compared to task-oriented or technology-based care), limited time to provide quality care and how this can cause moral distress to health care workers, etc. Over 40 people attended this event which was open to the public.
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**END: RNAO influences healthy public policy to positively impact the determinants of health, supporting Medicare and strengthening a publicly funded, not-for-profit health-care system.**

- The Chapter was approached by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) to provide a letter of support for their funding application to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for programming to address childhood obesity in Windsor-Essex County region. The Chapter Executive felt that this was a very important health issue and did provide a letter of support for the WECHU’s “Raising Healthy Children: A Healthy Kids Strategy Proposal”. RNAO Windsor-Essex Chapter Executive ensured that the letter of support reached local MPP’s, Minister of Health Deb Mathews and other MOHLTC ministers, and Windsor & County Majors. A personal email thanking the Chapter for their support was received from Dr. Gary Kirk, the CEO of WECHU.
  - On Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, an important article in the Windsor Star drew attention to the importance of access to the HPV vaccine and highlighted the inequality of the current Ontario vaccine program that only funds the vaccine for girls. The Windsor-Essex Chapter wrote a letter to the editor advocating for males to be included in the provincially-funded HPV vaccine program, and encouraged the public to contact their local MPP’s to support this idea. The Chapter’s letter to the editor was published on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Windsor Star as the feature letter of the day (<http://www.windsorstar.com/shots+males+sensible/8823675/story.html>) and has generated awareness and discussion about this important issue.
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**OTHER:** The Chapter is continuing to fundraise in support of the Rotary Club of Windsor (1918) program efforts to assist nurses in Ghana with their education costs. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, over 20 people joined RNAO Chapter members in participating in a Zumba Fundraiser which successfully raised over \$1350 toward our goal of \$3600. Our Chapter fundraising efforts continue and any contributions are greatly appreciated. We are also very proud to announce that Windsor-Essex Chapter Communications Executive Officer Lynda Monik is planning to go to Ghana with the Rotary Club in November 2013. Donations of used reading glasses, sunglasses, baby clothes, kids’ shoes and hats are welcome and appreciated.