



REBUILDING COMMUNICATION

BUILDING Bridges



Building Bridges – Newsletter of the Aphasia Institute – The Aphasia Institute is a Canadian community-based centre of excellence, pioneering programs and practices that help people with aphasia learn how to communicate in new ways and begin to navigate their own lives again. Through direct service, research, education and training, the Aphasia Institute has built an international reputation as a world leader and educator in aphasia.

THANK YOU! Your commitment to raising funds & awareness helps us
keep our promise to people with aphasia and their families:
We help you navigate your life *one conversation at a time.*

WALK, TALK 'N ROLL 2015



\$68,461 raised to
support individuals who cannot
afford to pay!

3RD year in a row that we
won the Supporting Seniors
Award for most participants.

187 participants walked,
rolled, ran, raised funds!

Innovative New Programs! At the Aphasia Institute, we recognize the importance of bringing fresh programming to our clients. Three of this year's new programs are already proving to be very popular. Visit us and see for yourself!

Laughter Yoga

A simple yet profound well-being workout, **Laughter Yoga** is a powerful technique that helps our clients reduce the everyday stresses of living with aphasia.

Walking Club

Research shows that exercise is not only good for the body but also for the brain. Our **Walking Club** is a great way for our clients to benefit from low-impact exercise, group participation, and fresh air.

Hear My Voice!

Hear My Voice! is a volunteer-led karaoke program that helps our clients rediscover the power of their own voices and have fun while doing it.

ANNUAL FORSYTHE CUP



For 12 years, the Aphasia Institute has been the primary beneficiary of the Forsythe Cup golf tournament, an independent fundraising event organized by Paul Bussiere.

In honour of Paul's father-in-law, Bob (an Aphasia Institute client), this annual tournament helps raise funds that support the vital programs and services we offer to people with aphasia and their families, like Bob and his wife, Dixie.

We thank Paul, Bob, Dixie, and their family for their generous commitment to this event, which to date has raised more than **\$54,000.00!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Annual Appeal 2015: Launches in November**
- **Bake & Craft Sale: November 17 & 18**
- **Multicultural Week: October 26-30**

Communicatively Accessible Hearing Screenings

Presenting Our Pilot Project to the Canadian Stroke Congress 2015

We know that aphasia often leads to social isolation and depression, and can significantly impact quality of life. Undetected hearing loss, as well as participation in hearing screenings without communicative support tools, creates added barriers for people with aphasia.

Our speech-language pathologist, Lisa Samson, in collaboration with Joanne DeLuzio, Ph.D., Audiologist with the University of Toronto, created and piloted a communicatively accessible hearing screening protocol for people with aphasia, using specifically designed pictographic resources and Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™).

We were selected as a highlighted poster for this year's Canadian Stroke Congress, with Lisa Samson presenting on this ground-breaking pilot project, **Conducting Communicatively Accessible Hearing Screenings for People with Aphasia**.

Clinicians and researchers in the aphasia and stroke communities have shown great interest in the resources that were developed for this project, which we hope to share very soon. This is one more example of the impact and importance our research has on individuals and their families living with aphasia.

(To view this poster, please visit www.aphasia.ca. The abstract will also be available in the July 2016 issue of *International Journal of Stroke*.)



AWARD RECIPIENTS ATTEND OUR AGM



Beth Linkewich (centre), Communicative Access Award co-recipient, with our founder, Pat Arato (left) and Executive Director Aura Kagan (right)



Ky Pruesse (left), Ambassador Award recipient, with our founder, Pat Arato

Each year, our Annual General Meeting gives us the opportunity not only to share our successes and challenges with our stakeholders and friends but also to present our Communicative Access and Ambassador awards. For a complete list of this year's recipients, please read the online version of our Annual Report 2014/15 in the **Us/Reports & Publications** section of our website.

1.9
MILLION
BRAIN CELLS
DIE EVERY MINUTE AFTER STROKE



DID YOU KNOW?

With stroke, every minute counts. Hesitate and a stroke can take away the use of your hand, your ability to talk, your vision, even your memories. To learn how you can minimize the risk and effects of stroke for yourself and your loved ones, please visit www.heartandstroke.com.

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Spotlight Series presents **MAMMA MIA!**

For the third year in a row, we played to a sold-out crowd of enthusiastic friends and family. By presenting an aphasia-friendly version of the hit musical MAMMA MIA!, our clients proved once again that life truly is larger than aphasia.



The Aphasia Institute relies on the generosity of individual donors and volunteers to deliver life-changing programs.

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