

*A Gift of Time Away with Family,  
Celebrating Cancer Recovery.*

**Cottage Dreams  
Cancer Recovery Initiative**

The Village Barn  
195 Highland Street  
P.O. Box 1300  
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

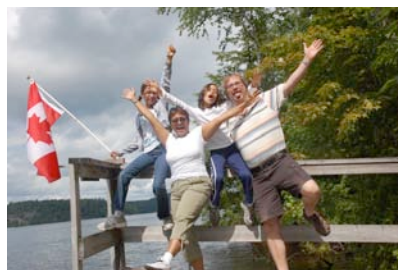
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## Fall 2008 Newsletter

*Pass The Word!*

**WE ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2009 PROGRAM!** To find out more go to our website at [www.cottagedreams.org](http://www.cottagedreams.org)



### Our Partners

We appreciate each time we are named the event charity of choice as we were this summer on several occasions. We encourage you to present us to your committees and co-workers and we will be there to support the event in any way we can.



For those of you who tuned into Moose FM across Muskoka and Haliburton this summer likely

### 5 Years and Counting!

Seana O'Neill, Founder

In 2002, I was on maternity leave with my second son Jackson and enjoying the summer at our new cottage in Haliburton. I was completely unaware that my life would soon change forever.



My mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer many years ago and as a life-long Lake of Bays cottager I understood first-hand the benefit of spending quality, family time at the lake. With my own cottage about to sit empty during the week, I wanted a way to make use of it and make a difference. The positive response to the idea of Cottage Dreams was immediate and gave me the confidence to move forward. With the support and help of many, we placed our first 6 families 1 year later in September 2003. Now, we are placing more families than ever with a record 150 families visiting cottages. To date almost 500 families and thousands of individuals have been able to use the cottage experience to begin healing while having some much needed fun.

Our goal is to bring the program across Canada and with the cottage offers from coast to coast, we should be on the move in 2010.

I want to personally thank each of you for your interest and support of Cottage Dreams. We simply couldn't do it without our cottage owners, volunteers, sponsors and financial donors.

***I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!***

Due to the ongoing interest in Cottage Dreams from potential sponsors, visitors and the medical community, I will be working out of a Toronto office every other week. Hilary Elia will be managing the Haliburton office in my absence. To reach me, please call (416) 763-2009 or (647) 822-0644, I am happy to do a presentation to introduce Cottage Dreams to your employees and/or colleagues. **It's great to be back!**

heard that American Express would donate 5% of each sale at participating Muskoka and Haliburton merchants to Cottage Dreams. The program ran from Victoria Day to Labour Day. Thank you to all of the cardholders who chose to use their American Express and to all the merchants who supported this program, thank you for your enthusiastic participation. We are hopeful that we will receive \$50,000!

Another amazing program is the Viceroy Homes program, whereby \$100.00 from each Viceroy sale is donated to Cottage Dreams. This was in addition to their community event sponsorships. The program will run until December 31, 2008 so please visit Viceroy.com if you are thinking of building this year.



**Viceroy**  
JOINS  
**COTTAGE DREAMS**  
**CANCER RECOVERY**  
**INITIATIVE**

**Purchase a Viceroy cottage and we will donate \$100.00 to Cottage Dreams**

**FIND OUT MORE**

We love our partners and have such fun being a part of each event and program. One of these was having Haliburton MPP Laurie Scott unveil the Heritage Quilt this summer.



Seana O'Neill, MPP Laurie Scott and Quilters

Over a million stitches, hundreds



*"It was during my chemo treatments that I was introduced to the Cottage Dreams Program. My nurse brought me a pamphlet while I was receiving chemo and she said I should apply because it would be a great gift for my kids. She took my best friend to a computer and had her sign me up right away."* - **2008 Visitor**

## Fundraising

Hilary Elia, Director of Development

We have focused on two major fundraising events in 2008; the inaugural **Art of the Cottage** fine art auction at Parkview BMW in Toronto and our 2nd annual **Cottage Dreams Cottage Classic** golf tournament. Both of these events were generously received, well attended and raised over \$100,000. Each time we embark on a fundraising event, we know that the funds raised will directly and positively affect a family who needs time away. With your contributions, we have the ability to make cottage dreams come true so we ask that you think of Cottage Dreams when you make your annual donations.

Each and every dollar raised will be used to provide the cottage experience as well as to pay for necessities such as insurance, visit coordination and raising awareness. We have an amazingly dedicated volunteer base but there are costs

associated with providing a free and well coordinated program. We encourage you to introduce Cottage Dreams to your company and your community.

**Since 2003, almost 2500 family members were impacted by their time at the lake!**



**Please support our Fall 2008 campaign!** Our goal is to raise \$75,000 now through the holidays. Online giving is easy and secure and can be accessed from our [website](#).

Does your company host an annual golf tournament that will name Cottage Dreams their charity of choice? Do you have an employee fundraising committee to whom we can introduce Cottage Dreams? If so, please consider championing Cottage Dreams. Together we have the opportunity to change lives.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



*"We are very pleased to be involved in this program. My kids*

of signature squares and almost \$19,000 raised. The quilt is in the Cottage Dreams office in Haliburton if you would like to experience it or travelling around Ontario for various shows and fairs.



Close-up of the Heritage Quilt

## Volunteer Needed!

For 2-4 hours per week we require a volunteer at our Haliburton office. Please contact Seana O'Neill at 705-457-9100 or email [info@cottagedreams.org](mailto:info@cottagedreams.org) for more information.



*even spent extra time and effort cleaning their rooms for visitors!"* – **2008 Cottage Donor**

## Program Update

**Kristy Bourgeois, Program Coordinator**

I would like to say to all cottage donors, thank you so much for offering time away at your cottage this year. To the donors who hosted a family this year, thank you. We reached out to the most families ever (150) and to those of you who did not host a family, we would like to thank you for your generous offers. Although we did not place a family in your cottage this year, please do not feel discouraged. We anticipate having more families than ever before in 2009. Your participation in the program means so much!

Also a big Thank-you to our, Financial Donors, Visit Sponsors, Site Representatives, Informal Meeting Volunteers, Medical Volunteers and our Tech Support Volunteer; you have been a key element and we could not have done it without you! You have touched so many lives by making the "dream" of a cottage vacation a reality.

The feedback from the visiting families this year has been amazing. We have received phone calls with tears of joy, handwritten cards and emails of thanks.

We are launching a new, password secure design on our website that will allow you to edit your own cottage profile, add new pictures and update us on any renovations. It will make communicating more efficient and help us provide the visiting family with a sneak peak of your cottage. Once we have set up your cottage profile for you we will be in touch with "log in" instructions so you can review and update your cottage profile. Our ability to create this unique program was due to a donation made by one of our amazing cottage owners, so thank you Mr. Anonymous!



*"Cottage Dreams was our chance, our first chance in many ways to get away from the day-to-day schedule and celebrate my new chance at life. The children played together in the beautiful setting with new wonder and joy. [My wife] and I could breathe a little easier. It allowed us to emerge from a prolonged time of crisis and begin to resume normal life. Thank you*

*for the gift of a beautiful place and time for healing and renewing our life as a family."* – **2008 Visitor**

## On Hosting

**Joy Levine, Advisory Committee and Donor, Co-Founder of Sunquest Vacations**

*In 2003, I hosted my first family. I use the word "hosted" somewhat lightly. I really did nothing; Cottage Dreams did it all – carefully matching my facilities with the right family. And did they do the perfect match! "My family" was a young couple and their two boys, the younger, 5 year old David having completed his first course of what came to be many treatments to attempt to defeat the growing tumor in his head. I was not at the cottage when the family arrived but when I checked in with them by telephone they told me they were having a wonderful time, the boys were fishing off the dock and David was so excited about catching his first fish. I did not meet My Family during their stay at my cottage but we "connected" and stayed in contact, mostly by email. It was more than a year later when young David was back*

 **Fall**  
**Cottage Life**  
SHOW

Please visit at the Cottage

Dreams Booth (#540, across from the Cottage Games Room) at the [FALL COTTAGE LIFE SHOW](#)

*at Sick Kids for more treatment that I met them face to face. I was grateful I had been able to give them special carefree time to be together at my cottage.*

*My second family was again special as was my third. I came to realize that likely all the Cottage Dreams families are special and I am thankful to be part of this wonderful experience of sharing and connecting. Seana recently shared with me an email from a family who had stayed at a cottage a few years ago. They expressed how it had brought much happiness and in their hosts, two lifelong friends. I knew exactly what they meant.*



*Please give generously to support the 100+ applications we have already received! You can donate to us through the **United Way** at your workplace by simply naming Cottage Dreams as your charity of choice.*

Visit us online at [www.cottagedreams.org](http://www.cottagedreams.org) for more information. Please pass along this newsletter to someone in treatment. We may very well have a cottage for them!

Charitable Registration Number: 888550100RR0001