

10th Annual Accessibility Workshop
OPENING DOORS AND MINDS

Thursday, October 25th, 2012

St. Nicholas Macedonian Eastern Orthodox Church Hall
5225 Howard Avenue, LaSalle, Ontario N9A 6Z6

9:30 am to 3:30 pm (registration begins at 9:00 am)

This year's workshop will focus on inclusiveness and empowerment. Some of our featured guest speakers include four time Paralympian Chris Daw and local television reporter Kevin McShan, who will both share some of their experiences and offer some strategies for living life to its fullest. Dealing with some invisible disabilities like depression and addiction will be the focus of some of the concurrent workshops. Learn about new speech-in/speech-out web based technology developed at the University of Windsor. Learn how municipalities are adapting their recreation programs to make them inclusive, which provides the opportunity for active living lifestyle development for all residents. Take the opportunity to visit the many booths at the Information Fair, all providing valuable information on resources and tools available to improve accessibility. Network and share best practices of accessibility initiatives within your community.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE:

Keynote Speaker: [John Draper](#) *(create link to his biography)*

John Draper, Founder of "Together We Rock!"

- The mission of Together We Rock! is to promote learning and leadership opportunities to inspire people to build communities that are accessible to and inclusive of people with disabilities. John believes that teamwork is at the heart of accomplishing this vision. John Draper is the founder of Together We Rock! and is a graduate of the journalism program of Durham College in Oshawa. John is a contributor to several books and is the author of numerous published articles. He has been an advisor to and a participant in international, national and community research initiatives and committees related to accessibility, inclusive education and augmentative communication. John has received numerous international and community awards in recognition of his efforts to promote inclusion and accessibility, including the Possum – ISAAC Award presented by the Right Honourable John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons of the

United Kingdom. At its convocation ceremony in 2007, his alma mater recognized John as an Alumnus of Distinction.

Attend any 3 of the following 6 breakout sessions:

➤ **SpeechWeb - A network of hyperlinked speech applications deployed over the Internet**

Despite remarkable advances in speech recognition technology over the last few years, very few speech-in/speech-out applications are available over the web. *Dr. Richard Frost, Acting Director, School of Computer Science, University of Windsor* and his research students at the University of Windsor have developed a "SpeechWeb" architecture and software that allows non-experts to create speech applications and deploy them on the web in minutes. SpeechWeb uses an open source speech recognizer and voice synthesizer, and commonly-used communications protocols. Users access the speech applications through an open-source web browser which can be installed on a PC in minutes. Users can interact with remote applications by voice with no training. Example speech applications include simple question-answer applications, speech browsing of Wikipedia, natural-language database querying, and speech games.

➤ **Substance Abuse Addictions Among People with Co-existing Disabilities**

The *Ontario Human Rights Code* clearly states alcoholism and drug addiction are disabilities, and provides a guarantee of equal treatment with respect to services without discrimination on specified grounds, including disability. Statistics show that persons with other co-existing disabilities are at an even greater risk for substance abuse problems. This includes problems related to the abuse of alcohol and prescription medications, as well as illicit drugs.

Research indicates that rates of substance abuse problems vary widely across disability. *Pascale Bedard, Senior Methadone Coordinator, Erie St. Clair Clinic*, will speak about how critical it is to promote public awareness and education about issues related to alcoholism, drug addiction, and substance abuse faced by persons with other co-existing disabilities. Substance abuse service providers must deliver an appropriate level of access and accommodation to cross-disabled persons (people with substance abuse issues and other disabilities). However, few substance abuse treatment programs in Canada currently provide supportive accommodations to persons with disabilities.

➤ **No Limits**

Chris Daw, Gold Medalist and four-time Paralympian, is the only athlete in Canadian history to represent Canada at multiple Paralympic games for four different sports and is only one of a handful of athletes in Canada to represent Canada at both summer and winter games. Chris will share his own story of courage and determination in life. He takes a hard look at dealing with unexpected changes, discoveries and challenges in life. Chris has had his share of challenges that saw him journey through four Paralympics to finally capturing Gold triumph at Torino Paralympic Games in 2006. Living in a time where the understanding and inclusion of people with disabilities was still being figured out, he has developed a strategy for facing and dealing with life's unexpected turns. He shares his story of discovery of life.

➤ **Building a Lasting legacy: Seize your opportunity for greatness one step at a time**

The true essence of life is captured by the notion that the prosperity of wisdom and the promise of opportunity should be afforded to all.

Kevin McShan, Reporter, CFTV34, will speak on how inclusion for the entire human race will lay the foundation for a fully functioning and vibrant society for future generations. "The day in which we close our minds from learning life lessons from all people, is the day we must cease and desist from our only existence because that's the day we lose our soul and will to live. We all have a gift to share; it is after all, a diversified world of people which will ultimately help us reach our fullest potential".

➤ **Inclusive Recreation Programs Promoting Active Living (via video conference)**

Participation of people with disabilities together in recreation programs of their choice enhances the quality of life for everyone. This can be achieved by encouraging the development of active healthy lifestyles through safe, accessible, diverse and high quality recreational opportunities. Municipalities and community-based recreation program providers throughout the Province are beginning to recognize the need to provide inclusion for people with disabilities into community activities of their choice. *Laurie Quinlan* and *Christine Wootton* will share how the City of London has adapted municipal recreation programs and integrated services for people with disabilities (via video conference). *Ashley Gialelem*, a youth ambassador from the Active Living Alliance for Canadians Living with a Disability,

will also share her experiences with community/municipal recreation programs and suggestions for inclusion and active living lifestyles of persons with disabilities.

➤ **Depression - An Invisible Disability**

Depression is an invisible disability that affects your thoughts, moods, feelings, behavior and physical health. People used to think it was "all in your head" and that if you really tried, you could "pull yourself out of it." Doctors now know that depression is not a weakness, and you can't treat it on your own. It's a medical disorder with a biological or chemical basis. Sometimes, a stressful life event triggers depression. Other times depression seems to occur spontaneously with no identifiable specific cause. Whatever the cause, depression is much more than grieving or a bout of the blues. While depression is a disability on its own, statistics have shown that it is very common for people who have other, co-existing disabilities, to experience depression. *Marc Crundwell, Psychologist, Greater Essex County District School Board*, will inform attendees at this session on how they can learn some of the signs of clinical depression. Find out some tips on how, as a caregiver, you can be the first line of defense, or as a person who may be experiencing feelings of depression, how you can be your own advocate and seek the guidance of a primary care physician or certified counsellor.

AGENDA

To view a copy of the draft agenda, complete with times of the various breakout sessions, download a copy in either [PDF](#) or [Word](#) formats. *(create links to PDF and Word versions of agendas)*

INFORMATION FAIR

One of the most important reasons for attending any workshop or seminar is to have the opportunity to network and share information with others. At this year's workshop there will be an opportunity for any organization, business, committee or individual, who has information to share with those attending the workshop, to take part in an **Information Fair**. Display tables will be made available, upon request, for anyone wishing to participate. Participants will be able to display brochures, products, resources documents, Accessibility Plans, or any kind of information related to

improving accessibility that other individuals attending the workshop might be interested in.

Displays can be set up during the registration period (from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.) and registrants will be given the opportunity during an extended lunch break and throughout the day to visit the **Information Fair**.

If you wish to participate in the Information Fair, please complete the on-line participant request form located at www.windsor-essex.info/aif2012 OR download and complete the [PDF form](#) (*create link*) and fax (519-776-4455) or e-mail to: accessibility@countyofessex.on.ca. (*create link*)

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Register for this workshop in one of the follow ways, by no later than **Thursday, October 18th, 2012:**

1. Complete the **on-line** registration form at:
www.windsor-essex.info/awr2012 (*create link*)
2. Download and complete the [PDF registration form](#) and mail, fax or e-mail it to:

Mail: Accessibility Coordinator
County of Essex
Suite 202
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

Fax: 519-776-4455

E-mail: accessibility@countyofessex.on.ca (*create link*)

Registration Information is available in alternate formats, upon request.

THIS IS A SCENT FREE EVENT.

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM WORKSHOP

Handi-Transit will provide transportation to the Workshop for City of Windsor and LaSalle residents at a fare of \$5.25 per person, round trip. Call 519-966-0930 to book an appointment, beginning **October 1, 2011**.

This Accessibility Workshop has been presented by the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee. Special thanks for contributions from the

Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee and St. Nicholas Macedonian Eastern Orthodox Church Hall.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

We appreciate any assistance in making people aware of this informative Workshop. Please download a promotional [poster](#) and/or [brochure](#) and help spread the word. *(create click to poster and brochure)*