

## EXECUTIVE REPORT



Lynn Laccohee (L), Angela Rodriguez (R), co-acting executive directors.

The Toronto Chapter's 2007-2008 fiscal year was a dynamic time. New programs and initiatives were developed and change was weathered in a way that positively impacted the chapter.

Education sessions once again delivered engaging expert speakers. Aprile Royal and Linda Gruson presented to newly diagnosed individuals and families at MS 101; Lynn McEwan spoke about fatigue management; representatives from TTC Wheel-Trans presented updates to service; and the summer event highlighted travelling with a disability, presented by Access Holidays. Many of these sessions have been placed on the chapter website as audio files, which helps us reach a wider audience ([www.mssociety.ca/toronto/elibrary.htm](http://www.mssociety.ca/toronto/elibrary.htm)).

Along with educational events, our members also enjoyed social events like our annual holiday party, which included an entertaining presentation by David Phillips, senior climatologist.

Chapter staff has each pursued activities to increase the chapter's profile and improve community services.

Lynn Laccohee chairs the Network of Neurological Diseases, which is comprised of many different agencies. She also is a member of the Disability Issues Committee with the City of Toronto.

Angela Rodriguez continues to chair the MS Resource Network comprised of healthcare and community service professionals within Toronto providing services to persons with MS.

Angela, along with Lisa Landriault, attended an MPP reception at Queen's Park in May highlighting the home care needs of persons with MS.

Lisa organized an open house at Ability Health Care Supplies Inc. for community occupational therapists. She created information folders for the OTs, which provide them with information to distribute to their clients with MS.

The chapter benefited from various foundation and individual donations, including the Takla Foundation donating \$3,000 and BMO Employee Charitable Foundation donating \$10,000.

In the past fiscal year, 408 individuals received services through the funding program. The total value of donated equipment items was \$78,550. Two hundred and ten equipment items were loaned to members.

Julie Crljen arranged for an archiving service to preserve all chapter newsletters dating back to the 1950s. She encouraged members to be active participants in *MetroScope* through the Living with MS and Members Helping Members columns. Julie also designed new display boards for community events that clearly present our mission and services. She also continues to ensure the volunteer program meets the chapter's needs while being rewarding to those giving their time to the chapter.

Under Patricia Cole's direction, the chapter's in honour and in memoriam programs raised \$59,130. Patricia also maintains the chapter membership, which is currently around 1200 members.

We thank you for your financial support, equipment donations, education suggestions and volunteer hours during 2007-2008. Thank you to the board of directors for their continued leadership and the staff for your dedication.

May we serve you well in 2008-2009. ♦

  
Angela Rodriguez

  
Lynn Laccohee



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE...

## Message from the board of directors chair

by Colin Rickards



Colin Rickards,  
Toronto Chapter  
board chair with  
Linda Lumsden,  
Ontario Division  
board chair,  
signing the MOU.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada is 60 years old this year, slightly older than the Toronto Chapter, which is itself slightly older than Ontario Division. At the National and Ontario Division levels there have been changes during the past fiscal year that will have some effect on our activities, but not of an adverse nature.

At the chapter level, we completed two forward-looking initiatives. Led by Vice Chair Sean Foran, we renegotiated our existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is our grant agreement with Ontario Division. Concurrently, Treasurer Ivor Gottschalk, assisted by chapter staff, negotiated an arrangement with Ontario Division for them to handle much of our financial processing.

Both these tasks were time consuming and somewhat complex, needing to be done in such a way to protect the chapter's autonomy and control. I would like to thank Sean and Ivor for their staying power and skills. The time and attention expended by the Ontario Division board members and staff is also gratefully acknowledged.

At last year's AGM, I advised you that executive director Pamela Freedman was on long leave. Please be advised that she will not be returning to the chapter. We wish her well as she devotes her considerable energies and talents to new interests. We will, in the coming year, be involved in a search for a new fulltime executive director.

I do not need to speak of chapter activities, as Lynn Laccohee and Angela Rodriguez, our co-acting executive directors, have covered everything of importance in their Executive Report (see page 1).

Toronto Chapter has been blessed with excellent board members – some leaving us as they complete their term – and a hard working staff. We welcome four new board members. I thank all the directors – going, staying and arriving – and the chapter staff for their dedication to our mission. ♦



Colin Rickards, Chair

## 2007-2008 In Honour & In Memoriam program

This past year, the chapter's in memory and in honour donations program raised \$59,130. Supporters made generous gifts to the chapter to mark the passing of loved ones and special events.

The chapter's enhancements to this program include our relaunch of the program as the "Commemorative Giving" program. We think this name captures the essence of the program as a wonderful way to remember a person or event.

Also, donors can now visit the website to let us know that they want to donate to the chapter by taking a moment to fill out an online form ([www.mssociety.ca/toronto/donation\\_form.htm](http://www.mssociety.ca/toronto/donation_form.htm)).

When a donation is made to the chapter in honour or in memory of someone, the chapter will send a personalized card to the individual or the individual's family. When a donation is made to celebrate an event, the chapter can provide a

plaque for display at the event.

Each year, stories that touch us come our way through this program. This past year we have come across many brides and grooms giving donation wedding favours; children who ask for donations instead of birthday gifts; couples who are celebrating anniversaries and ask for donations in lieu of gifts; and groups who make contributions to honour the retirement of a special co-worker.

We were also saddened by the loss of long-time members and friends of the chapter. The friends and relatives of many of these individuals made gifts to the chapter and encouraged others to give to the chapter in memory of their loved one. Their legacy lives on in these contributions.

The chapter thanks everyone who made gifts to remember or to honour a special someone. ♦

**MS SOCIETY OF CANADA,  
TORONTO CHAPTER  
FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

**Balance Sheet**

As at August 31, 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	293,087	204,948
Accounts receivable	6,268	1,091
Prepaid expenses	100	951
	<u>299,455</u>	<u>206,990</u>
<b>Capital Assets – Net</b>	<u>2,479</u>	<u>4,799</u>
	<u>301,934</u>	<u>211,789</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	74,491	17,560
Due to other MS Society of Canada offices	88,208	30,738
Deferred revenue	10,743	10,000
	<u>173,442</u>	<u>58,298</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Invested in Capital Assets	2,479	4,799
Unrestricted	126,013	148,692
	<u>128,492</u>	<u>153,491</u>
	<u>301,934</u>	<u>211,789</u>

Approved by the board of directors

  
Ivor Gotschalk, Treasurer

  
Colin Rickards, Chair

**Statement of Revenue and  
Expenditures and Changes in Net Assets**

For the year ended August 31, 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
<b>Revenue</b>		
Allocation from United Way	140,332	135,004
Allocation from United Way – Donor's Choice		
Unrestricted	116,826	116,395
Restricted for research	15,816	6,410
Donations from individuals and groups		
Unrestricted	101,182	96,909
Restricted for research	17,247	35,073
Membership dues	11,838	11,483
Investment income	6,727	10,021
Grants	24,362	9,168
Miscellaneous	1,539	740
	<u>435,869</u>	<u>421,203</u>
MS Society, Ontario Division grant	301,678	287,312
Bequests	10,000	22,720
	<u>747,547</u>	<u>731,235</u>
Less: Funds remitted to Ontario Division for programs and services	<u>(21,763)</u>	<u>(20,959)</u>
	<u>725,784</u>	<u>710,276</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
<b>Program services</b>		
Client services	502,152	458,168
Public education	77,620	70,270
Chapter resources	68,715	62,495
Social action	14,384	13,075
Funds remitted to National Office for research	32,903	40,237
	<u>695,774</u>	<u>644,245</u>
<b>Support Services</b>		
Administration	55,009	53,420
	<u>750,783</u>	<u>697,665</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year.</b>	<u>(24,999)</u>	<u>12,611</u>
<b>Unrestricted net assets – Beginning of year</b>	<u>153,491</u>	<u>140,880</u>
<b>Unrestricted net assets – End of year</b>	<u>128,492</u>	<u>153,491</u>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 08-09



*(Top row, L-R):*

Sarah Azargive, Michael Binder, Krista Corbeil, Sean Foran (vice-chair).

*(Middle row, L-R):*

Ivor Gottschalk (treasurer), David McClung (vice-chair), Patricia McQuillan, Colin Rickards (chair).

*(Bottom row, L-R):*

Christopher J. Staples, Deborah Worrad

*(Absent:)*

Kelly Kimens

## Chapter Services

- Counselling & referral
- Workshops
- Resource library
- Equipment loans and funding assistance
- Home help and incontinence supplies subsidies
- Bimonthly newsletter
- E-mail bulletin
- Advocacy
- Support Groups

The Toronto Chapter would like to thank our many donors for their support during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. It is only with your help that we are able to make a difference in the lives of those living with MS and the people close to them by providing information, services and programs. Thank you very much!

## CHAPTER STAFF



*(L-R):*

Lisa Landriault (Manager, Funding Programs), Angela Rodriguez (Manager, Client Services), Patricia Cole (Manager, Administration), Julie Crljen (Manager, Communications & Volunteers), Lynn Laccohee (Manager, Client Services).