

# ROSE GARDEN

*Rose of Durham*  
YOUNG PARENTS SUPPORT SERVICES

It was 9:00 am on a sunny May 28th when I pulled up to help prepare for the Rose of Durham's annual Community Picnic. This was my first time attending and I was looking forward to seeing first-hand what all the excitement was about. The park was serene with all its mature trees swaying lightly in the breeze. Before long an excited energy began to move through the park. One of the first things I noticed was the size of the jumping castles. They were ENORMOUS!

Soon I could see parents and small children taking peeks at the playground, the craft tables, and the yard sale toys. Before I knew it there were children everywhere, shouting, playing, and smiling, indulged by parents and caregivers. A sudden loud trill made me jump in my seat and as I turned I discovered a massive cockatiel, along with several other exotic creatures. I couldn't help but smile while watching face-painted children giggle at the bird's funny antics. Then came the smells; the glorious smell of delicious Lakeview Burger hamburgers, and hot dogs, in addition to cotton candy, sno-cones, pop, juice boxes and water. The food truck was huge, red and impressive, with a line of very happy customers.

The sun shone down strong and bright and clear skies brought on the crowds. A special thank you to the Legault Trio who for the fourth year in a row provided a lively and interactive musical act that was enjoyed by young and old alike. All in, we had over 400 people enjoy games, crafts, prizes, animals, face-painting, food, music and more. Thank you to all who donated their time and energy to make this picnic such a success. Thank you also, to all those who enjoyed the day, your smiles make it all worthwhile.



Rose Garden is a quarterly publication produced by Rose of Durham.

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Rose of Durham is funded through the generous support of individuals and organizations. Major contributors include:



#### Our Vision

Encouraging and empowering young parents and their children towards a future built on positive mental health



## The Power of Partnerships



In 2012, Rose of Durham was asked to be the charity of choice for the Institute of Power Engineers' annual golf tournament.

What does this mean?

It means we provide assistance by supplying staff to help the day of the tournament and we promote the option to golf to our supporters and the general public. In exchange we are provided with the opportunity to host events the day of, such as the sale of passports for entry into contests, and 50/50 tickets.

In 2013, the Institute of Power Engineers began a custom of matching the money raised.

In 2016, Ralf Klopff, Ontario Director presented us with a cheque for \$2,000. Add to this the generous donation from the 50/50 winner who donated his winnings of \$230 back to the Rose, and the Rose of Durham received a total of \$4,125 for 2016.



## Free/Cheap Summer Activities

1. **Take advantage of splash pads!** - Most cities have them active during daylight hours from June to September, and they're free!
2. **Be outdoors**—It's easy to forget that we are cooped up inside for months at a time without encountering wildlife or plants. Take the kids to Rotary Park or along the waterfront anywhere from Oshawa to Pickering.
3. **Check out your local Community Centre**—Most municipalities throughout Durham Region have at least one community centre. Go for a swim, play basketball, or check out their inexpensive day camps and events.
4. **Get a library card**—The library may seem like more of a winter activity, but it is never the wrong time for free entertainment or to promote imagination through reading.

hope 🌸 promise 🌸 new life

# From their lips to your heart, the real lives of young parents: Interview with a young father

## **How old were you when you became a father for the first time?**

That's when life really started for me, I was 20.

## **How did you feel when you found out you were going to become a father?**

Overwhelmed, wishy washy around the decision to keep, but very happy with the choice we made.

## **What are some of the challenges you have faced?**

Lots ... greatest challenges have been when I was trying to make a relationship work that wasn't meant to work, and as a parent, always wanted to be a perfect parent and knowing there is no such thing, it weighs on me.

## **How has your life changed?**

Feels like life for me began when my son arrived, if it wasn't for my son who knows where I would be right now, probably not a very good place. I do believe having children for some people makes them successful, gives them a reason. Before my son it was all about school and doing this and that.

## **How do you think society views you as a parent?**

Society really doesn't understand

that dads want to parent too.

Courageous for a woman to be both parents, but when a man wants to do both it's not as accepted. When on a bus alone with my son I get a lot of looks, some feel like pity, some feel like judgement, I don't want either.

## **What do you want for your child's future?**

Whatever he wants, I want him to find his own passion, his own path, and to be there only to help him achieve his goals.

## **Why did you start coming to Rose of Durham?**

Prenatal classes and the dads group, when we decided to keep the child we researched what was available to us in the community.

## **How did these programs help you in your role as a parent?**

Prenatal classes helped with bonding, felt like I was on the ball for the delivery, he was delivered at home.

Dads group has been a one of a kind experience for me as my son grows and there are different obstacles and challenges I take the information from the group to help me. Also the opportunity to share with other dads is invaluable.

## **How did your involvement with Rose of Durham help you as an individual?**

Rose of Durham has helped define who I am, I am a parent first. I feel that without the help of the group and my individual counsellor I would not have been able to navigate the court and custody process, he (counsellor) helped me separate my personal feelings from the process and helped me see it from the perspective of what was best for my son.

## **In your view what is your greatest success?**

My Son! I've won awards and trophies but nothing compares to the pride I feel for my son.

## **Do you feel that the Rose of Durham has contributed in any way to your success?**

Of course, has helped to shape the type of father I am, without that foundation and support, I would not have been as successful.

## **What are your future goals and how can the Rose of Durham support you?**

I would like to pay it forward, see more services for fathers in Durham.

## **Where do you see yourself in ten year?**

Probably losing my hair, cause my son will be 13! I would like to advance myself in the trades, and for my son to see me as a success!

**A very special thank you to Community Picnic Sponsors:**

Bowmanville Zoo, Canadian Automotive Museum, Costco, Dollarama, Hakim Optical, Herongate Barn Dinner Theatre, Jungle Cat World, KX 96 (Durham Radio Inc.), Knights of Columbus: Council 10236, Council 11098, Council 6161, Council 6361, Council 4895, Leon's Furniture, Mariposa Cruises, Montgomery's Inn Museum, National Arts Centre, New Beginnings Party Sales, RCM Technologies Canada Corp, St. Joseph The Worker Catholic Women's League, Station Gallery, Sunflower the Clown, The Niagara Parks Commission, The Leggault Trio, The City of Oshawa, Unifor Family Auxiliary 27, UOIT—Regent Theatre, Vandemere Nurseries, Veridian Connections Inc., WB White

Please note that the summer newsletter acknowledges donations received from February to April 2016.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

Victorian Tea & Gift Basket Draw  
November 15, 2016

Doors Open at 6 PM

Event Begins Promptly at 7 PM

**\*\*New Location\*\***

Jubilee Pavilion and Banquet Centre  
55 Lakeview Park Avenue  
(Simcoe and Lake)

Call 905-432-3622 to Order Tickets  
\$25 Each

Stories featuring real clients and many more like it are made possible due to the support of our community. Sincere thanks to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Women's League, Karma Yoga Brooklin, Ontario Power Generation, Mr. Brian Reel, Ms. Joan Blair, FlexoPartners Inc., Westminster United Church Women, Ms. Elizabeth Barlow, Brenda Culham, Catholic Women's Connection, St. Stephen's United Church, Ms. Jody Shaddick.



**"It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live" ~ Ethel Percy Andros**



St. Joseph's 9989—\$657.55  
St. Isaac Jogues 11098—\$1,247.45  
St. Francis of Assisi 11268—\$175

We also gratefully recognize funding provided by:

- ⇒ The Durham Child Nutrition Program for providing funds to support our Student Nutrition Program.
- ⇒ Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth for providing funds to provide training and development opportunities for the staff.
- ⇒ The Ontario Trillium Foundation for their support of our Group Worker position.
- ⇒ Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto for \$4,000 in proceeds from the 2015 Cardinal's Dinner
- ⇒ Durham Children's Aid Society for funding our Spring 2016 What a Difference a Dad Makes parenting program.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rose-of-Durham/1558465994416216> or just search Rose of Durham

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