



ACCESS NOW



“ Making our world more Accessible for Everyone ”

Jean Wyatt was the Backbone of Disabled and Proud and ACCESS NOW !



Wyatt, Jean
Vice-President of
Disabled and Proud

On Monday, March 14, 2005, in her 59th year, Jean Wyatt joined her son Murray who pre deceased Jean in 1996, they are no longer held hostage from their Muscular Dystrophy, She will be best remembered as a volunteer to many service organizations

throughout Ottawa.

Jean is survived by her daughter Diane (Cam) in Ottawa, and brother George (Bonnie) in Hamilton and her loving partner Charles Matthews.

A Funeral Mass was held at St. Patrick Basilica on Friday March 18, 2005 at 10 am. In lieu of Flowers please donate to:

Disabled and Proud
453 Cooper st. Apt# 403
Ottawa, ON. K2P-0H1
disabledandproud@sympatico.ca

Although not officially being recognized for her accomplishments, Jean Wyatt was

"Disabled and Proud"

One of the press releases read **City Looses another great one !**

Jean Wyatt , passed away on Monday March 14th, 2005 Although Jean was never officially recognized for her many roles that she performed, She was front and centre when ever she was needed.

Jean was the backbone and pillar of strength of the Advocacy group "Disabled and Proud" and the newspaper "ACCESS NOW". This is the group that has been in the forefront on achieving many of the accessibility features that have happened over the last few years. It has often been said that many of the operations of Disabled and Proud would not have happened if not for Jean.

Jean lost her son Murray to the same Myotonic Dystrophy 9 years earlier and has fought to keep his memory alive by volunteering for Muscular Dystrophy.

Jean has contributed on many occasions for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, weather it was for the many telethon's that she worked on or for the many fund raising drives that she partook in. Some of these included the Walk-n-Roll, other fund raising events, and in many information sessions used to educate the general population about Muscular Dystrophy.

If you name the organization in this city that relies on volunteers to achieve results , then Jean had a role to play, ,She worked on programs like the Heart Institute telethon and the telethon for CHEO. She even worked at a seniors Bingo every Friday night in the past while. She was always then when needed to help out all those around her.

Jean was well known and respected for her dedication to seeing that things got done for the disabled community and for the thousands of persons that were in abusive relationships.

Jean, herself was in an abusive marriage and managed to escape that environment, along with her son, to live an independent life abuse free. she then went on to help countless others to achieve abusive free environments.

Jean was one of a kind and will sadly be missed, But her work will continue through the hundreds of people she has shown the open door to. **(con't...3)**



Fires splits up caring group

So many fires in a short period of time

Many fires have cast people out of their homes with no idea on how and where they would be able to continue their lives. One fire in particular has left a whole small disabled community without not only a place to live but trying to find a way to retain the great support group that they had developed.

Nineteen people that are suffering from various chronic mental health problems were boarded onto an OC Transpo bus, just as the Executive Director of the Ottawa Salus Corporation, Ann Chornenky, was being interviewed by the Media. Ms. Chornenky stated that: "The building is fairly new; it was only opened in January 2002 and it housed all homeless people. Now they are homeless again. We are told that the building is toast."

The property damage is estimated to be \$1 million, but the bigger loss is that this was truly a tight knit and caring group. As evidence, as of

the reaction from one of the tenants as he arrived to what used to be his home, only to discover smoke and flames destroying his sanctuary. Instead of being concerned for his own loss, he was more concerned about "My friends in the building". He went on to say " I loved my apartment, but I was concerned as when I left for work the tenants of the 19 apartments were just starting some arts and crafts with the support worker".

Millennium House, as it was known, was a safe place to call home. Many of that close knit group are hoping that they might one day be reunited and that their dreams have not gone up in flames as well.



Photo courtesy of the Ottawa Sun and Jason Ransom.
Fire Destroys Millennium House on Gladstone Ave.

We Need your help to survive !!!

Sponsors and Support are needed to keep this organization alive!

Due to the lack of funding and support we are in a situation that might see us not being able to continue with what we are doing for Accessibility, Disabled and Seniors issues.

Many setbacks have happened over the last year that has put us in a negative cash flow and now we have to face weather we cut back on what we are doing or consider to stop everything altogether.

Inside you will find out what those setback were/are and what can be done to off-

set those and get us back on the right track.

Please take your time and read this edition and please call or write and tell us what you think we can do, or what you can do for us. Only the people we support can understand how important our work is and how much it is necessary in our community.

What is Inside ?

As you are expecting a majority of this edition will be on what is new but there are many issues dealing with Jean Wyatt and the way her influence started our work and how she was the backbone of of Disabled and Proud as well as this newspaper ACCESS NOW. This coverage starts on page 2 along with tributes that appear on page 3.

Survival is the name of the game and we are going to share with you some of the detours that we had to go through the last year or so. Our hope is that we will be singing that favorite song "I will Survive" along with you.

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) will be LAW once the next edition of this paper prints. Inside you can read as to where the legislation is now in the process and when to expect it to become law.

The City of Ottawa has cleared the way for them to finally hire their first full time disability Specialist. The process will finally get underway and it might not be who you would have liked. the lead candidate and peoples choice has be snatched up from the province. Please turn to page. 7 in the column "Building an Inclusive City" to find out.

Please enjoy this edition.

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