

### ATCS History

*Background and History of the Assistive Technology Centre Society since July 1993.*

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### ATCS Loan Library

*A short list of some of our loan library AT devices*

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### ATCS Past Projects

*Read an exciting list of a number of our past projects & how we have helped others.*

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### Board of Directors

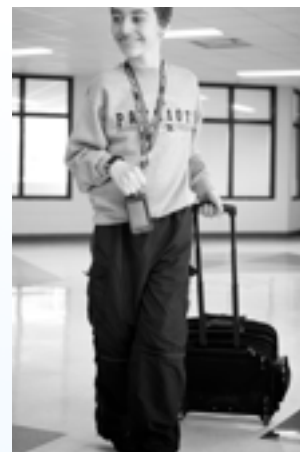
*Meet our Board Members*

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## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE SOCIETY

Assistive Technology involves services and supports to enhance the functional capability of people with disabilities. AT includes low technology devices (i.e. hand held magnifiers, pencil grips or adapted seat cushions etc.); mid technology (ipod touches or talking calculators) and high technology devices (adapted computers). Assistive Technology can provide access to a child who is blind to information on the internet; functional communication to an adult with ALS; access to toys for children with cerebral palsy; learning opportunities for children and adults with autism; communication capabilities for individuals who are non verbal... and much more.

The Assistive Technology Centre Society was registered as a not for profit society in July of 1993. We are a registered Canadian Charity with a volunteer board of directors providing specific supports for our clientele on the South Shore of Nova Scotia. Since 1993 we have facilitated the development of Assistive Technology services in our area and beyond. We have been leaders in the province, and across Canada, in designing and developing innovative supports for children and adults with disabilities.



### Ryan

*Ryan is a young boy with autism, glaucoma and Phelan McDermid syndrome. He utilizes a wide variety of Assistive Technology to communicate, learn and engage in school and home leisure opportunities. Ryan is an optimal user of AT and benefits tremendously from its use and application.*

# ATCS

We work with young children in Early Intervention programs in Lunenburg and Queens Counties; school aged children, young adults and seniors with physical, visual, auditory, cognitive and/or behavioural difficulties.

## Assistive Technology Loan Library

The main focus of our Society is to raise funds to enhance our Assistive Technology Centre Loan Library supporting children with disabilities in the Lunenburg and Queens County areas, Nova Scotia, Canada. We have recently also established a branch supporting the Halifax region of Nova Scotia.

We manage over 1,000 AT software packages and 500 AT devices of all kinds including: Adapted Physical Education equipment; AT for children or adults with Learning Disabilities (Kurzweil, CoWriter etc.); visual impairments (magnifiers etc.); physical disabilities (switches etc); cognitive delays and AT for children or adults hearing impairments.

Our AT includes but is not limited to....Alternate keyboards; AAC devices; Single Switch devices and toys; Sensor switches; Sensory devices (with OT support); Touch screens; Software for Autism; iPods and iTalks; iPod Touch technology with specific APPS, iPads and iPhones for children with disabilities; iPods for Cancer Patients; laptops for AT training and much more.

AT is only provided on loan (or occasionally donated) based on an Assistive Technology assessment by an AT Specialist, OT or other AT qualified professional. Other services include private AT assessments; consultations; trainings and awareness sessions.



## KAYAK or WALK for Assistive Technology

*The Assistive Technology Centre Society holds an annual event to fundraise for Assistive Technology to enhance our Loan Library.*

*Items purchased for the loan library are based on needs identified in AT assessments completed by qualified professionals. In the past we have purchased a wide variety of AT including adapted chairs for children with CP;*

*communication device for a senior with ALS; iPod Touch devices for people with learning disabilities; laptops for AT training; adapted toys and much more.*



## Ben

The iPod Touch has made the world of difference to Ben.

Ben is a bright young man who is nonverbal and presents with neuromuscular difficulties that also compromise fine motor skills. When you ask him what his favorite part of the iPod

Touch is, he responds by saying the text to speech. It allows him to fit in with his class and he is able to talk with his classmates. Also at home, Ben is part of supertime conversations, whereas before everyone had to guess what Ben was trying to say.



# ATCS - EXAMPLES OF PAST PROJECTS

## Past AT Projects

Over the years the ATCS have completed a wide variety of community based projects. We have been successful contractors with Industry Canada, Literacy Secretariat, NS Disabled Persons Commission, School Boards, Department of Community Services, Workers Compensation, Catherine Donnelly Foundation etc.

## Examples of Past Projects

- Design & Testing an Assistive Technology Learning Model for NS
- Literacy Skill Development for Youth At Risk
- Design and Develop an Assistive Technology Service Delivery Model for Nova Scotia
- Development of a Web4All Assessment Tool for People with Disabilities
- Designing and Teaching an Online Assistive Technology Course for the Nova Scotia Community College
- Hiring Youth at Risk to Enhance Job Skills in CAP sites..& many more

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## Other: Fee for Service

- Private AT consultations with seniors with ALS, Brain Injury, Cognitive Delays etc.
- AT training sessions with parents, primary users and professionals



### Tyler

*Tyler is a young boy living in Milton, NS. Tyler is a very bright young boy with cerebral palsy. With the help of a wide variety of Assistive Technology he participates successfully in the French Immersion classroom, community and home. Some of the AT that Tyler uses includes a laptop, French text to speech software, adapted writing software through single switch access, adapted Wii set up in the home, adapted video game devices, swimming supports and much more. Tyler is an active and focussed children or adults with*



# ATCS - EXAMPLES OF PAST PROJECTS



## Adapted Toys for a Blind Child

Some of our fundraising dollars recently went to purchase a few adapted toys for a young child who is blind. The Lamaze Baby toys offer cause and effect play experiences. Touch the ear and it crinkles, squeeze the trunk of the elephant and a tune is played. This elephant is soft, cuddly and offers many different tactile and auditory feedback stimuli for a young child who is blind...and... he loves it:)

## iPods for Cancer Patients

A portion of the 2009 fundraiser went to purchasing an iPod Touch, music & Apps for a teenager in the hospital fighting osteosarcoma.

A few years ago the project iPods for Cancer patients was started by the Assistive Technology Centre Society to provide portable devices to access music, ebooks, games, videos etc. for cancer patients in or out of hospital. Through personal experiences we have found that iPods or iPod Touches offer opportunities to relax, learn and help cope with the use of music,

ebooks, videos etc. during treatments and stays in the hospital. We are pleased to offer such experiences to people going through cancer treatments by providing these devices.



Music has been donated by various artists (Blue Rodeo); cd's have been donated by individuals or funds have been donated for purchases on iTunes. iPod Touches now offer extended bonuses including interactive games, video and educational APPS.

iPod Touches also provide access to the internet and email when within accessible WiFi range.

Read this girls story at <http://thechronicleherald.ca/NovaScotia/1157805.html>

## COMMUNICATION AT FOR NON VERBAL CHILDREN

Proloquo2go for the iPhone or iPod Touch is a portable communication APP that provides communication opportunities "on the go" for children and adults who are non verbal. The ATCS has provided 2 of these APPS for families who purchased the iPod Touches for their children. Families were trained on how to design their own communication boards, as were school teams. This device and APP is making a huge difference in these children's lives.



Communication on the Go for iPhone and iPod touch



# ATCS - BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ATC Society  
c/o  
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Contact:  
Chairperson  
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## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Technology solutions for people with disabilities

### Board of Directors

#### Chairperson

Barbara Welsford

#### Vice Chairperson

Barbara Cochrane

#### Treasurer

Anita Kingdon

#### Directors

Janet Stewart  
Paula Munro  
Gary Langille  
Ian Kent  
Kelly Jane Walker  
Mary Anne Thomas

#### Services:

- Primary Goal 2009/2010:  
Fundraising to enhance the  
Assistive Technology Loan Library
- Fee for Service AT Training for  
School Boards, Colleges,

Universities, Private training,  
Agencies, Government programs,  
Businesses

- Fee for Service Private AT  
Assessments
- Fee for Service AT Curriculum  
Development

#### Clientele:

- Preschoolers with Disabilities
- School Age Children with  
Disabilities
- Young Adults with Disabilities
- Youth At Risk
- Adults with Disabilities
- Seniors with Disabilities

#### Regions Served:

- Primarily Lunenburg & Queens  
Counties
- Nova Scotia (assessments,  
consultations and trainings)
- National (conference  
presentations etc.)

#### Board members represent:

- Education
- Family
- Community
- Parents

*Our Board of Directors are volunteers representing the diversity in our community including educators, professionals, parents of children with disabilities, concerned citizens, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Each board member has a vested interest in supporting services for individuals with disabilities through Assistive Technology. Over the past 17 years we have proven to be a dynamic, successful, innovative and creative charitable organization providing tremendous benefits to people with disabilities in our region through assistive technology and AT services.*

### Testimonial

*Assistive technology has allowed Scottie to make choices for himself, to communicate with others, to become more independent and to develop his social skills. He is now*

*able to participate with his peers more efficiently, and practice the skills he will need to be a more independent member of our society.*

**S.Catton, Principal**

