

ATCS

NEWSLETTER

ATCS History

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

Page 2

ATCS Loan Library

A short list of some of our loan library AT devices

Page 2

ATCS Past Projects

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

Page 3 & 4

Kat-Walk 2010

Page 5

Board of Directors

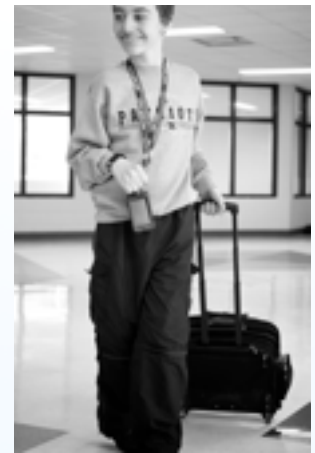
Meet our Board Members

Page 6

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.

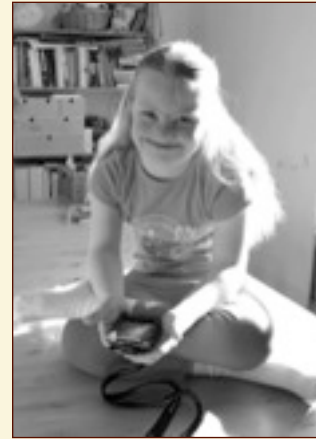
Assistive Technology Loan Library

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 through AT
- 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

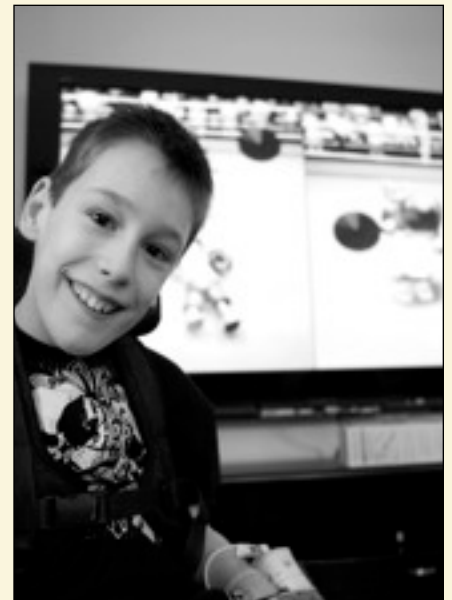
Other: Fee for Service

- Private AT consultations with seniors with ALS, Brain Injury, Cognitive Delays etc.
- AT training sessions with parents, primary users and professionals via Elluminate Live &/or face to face
- Assistive Technology Curriculum Design for Bridges Canada EducATe focussed on use and application of the iPod Touch by children with disabilities



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 seating, adapted Wii set up in the home, adapted video game devices, swimming supports and much more.



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 2010 fundraiser went to purchasing an iPod Touch, music & Apps for a young boy in the hospital fighting leukemia.

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 had 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.

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 - KAT-WALK 2010

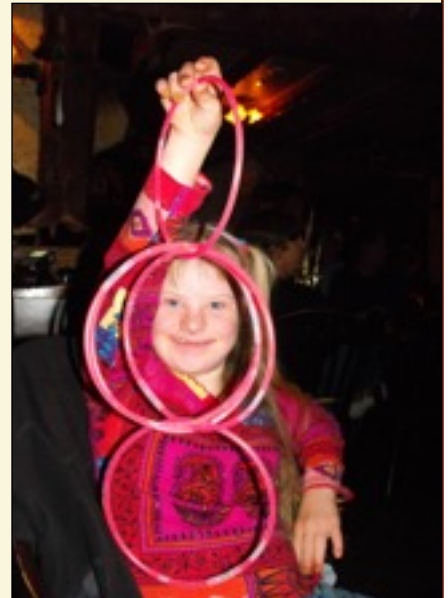
Sept. 11, 2010

Kayak or Walk for Assistive Technology for Children with Disabilities



KAT-Walk Purchases

This year we made over \$10,000.00 during the KAT-Walk event. With the proceeds some purchases made supporting children with disabilities include: Specialized voice input software; iPod Touches with various Apps for students with a range of abilities; modified switch for accessing an ipod touch by a student with CP; laptop for enhancing training; LD software; Specialized software for a student with Down Syndrome; 2 iPads for students with autism and neuromuscular disorder; Wrist Talker Communication device for a child who is blind; Elluminate Live license to enhance access to AT training by parents, teachers, support workers and others....& much more



ATCS - BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
Technology solutions for people with disabilities

ATC Society
c/o
16147 Highway 3
Hebbsville, Nova Scotia
B4V 6Y1

Contact:
Chairperson
Barbara Welsford
bwelsford@eastlink.ca
902-275-7906 cell

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

