



SPRING/SUMMER 2024 PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

We're in the beginning of May and winter left us so long ago I can barely remember it. As I have no idea how long it will be until we're all paddling about in Lake Ontario (a couple of weeks?), I am offering this update as a sort of 'it's not winter anymore' update.

NEW WEBSITE!

We've been busy the past four months. We have a new and improved website! Our fabulous tech team (Pat Dudley, our Treasurer and Heather, our Tech Support contractor) finalized updating our website giving it a whole new look, making it easier to navigate and more accessible. Thanks, thanks, thanks to both of them. The new site launched in April at the same address. If you haven't already, please visit it at: www.ldakingston.com.

CHANGES TO SPECIAL EDUCATION IN LDSB

We've continued to represent our community within Kingston and its two school boards, and we've kept up an active social media presence. We've been getting a lot of questions about changes to special education programming at the Limestone board and we plan to be able to provide you with fairly well developed information on what you can expect for your child in September.

We are currently talking with Limestone about holding a joint virtual event for the public in June so you can learn directly from the board about what is happening, and regardless, we will post information we receive from the board in the coming weeks.

RECENT EVENTS

We held a webinar in February on Writing and Self Confidence with Roselyn Gishen that was well attended and ended in a lively Q & A session. The interest in this topic has got us thinking that there might be community interest in having a series of dysgraphia workshops to help children who are struggling to learn to write. Stay posted and please let us know if you would be interested. **To watch a recording of the webinar and access resources, please visit [Writing and Self-Confidence Recording & Resources](#)**

UPCOMING – SPEAK UP FOR ABILITY WEBINAR!

We have a really timely and interesting forum coming up in late May/early June: Our annual **Speak Up for Ability forum**. The focus this year will be on Assistive Technology (AT), with presentations from both Kingston school boards on their AT programs and Dr. Todd Gillingham from the University of

Toronto who is an expert on AT and neurodiversity. The forum will take place on two Saturday mornings: **May 25th and June 1st**. Another reason to visit our website - you can get more information and register. It's free, virtual, and it's open to anyone with an interest in Assistive Technology in the Kingston area.

[Click here to let us know you're coming!](#)

We are also really happy to announce that we have just received a grant from the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area to help fund our outreach activities for the next six months. **Thank you \$3,100 times to CFKA for helping us support you!**

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Finally, and as always, I want to recognize and thank the many volunteers who serve on our board and step up to organize and deliver events. Kingston really is a caring community and LDAK is here to contribute in any way we can. That said, I also want to encourage any and all of you who have time on your hands and skills to make use of to get involved with us. We especially want to get more families directly engaged with choosing and planning our events and services. We'll take whatever you have to offer and we'll thank you for it too! You'll meet interesting people and have fun (really!).

I'll check back in with you in early fall...which might be in August...or could be December!

Enjoy summer!

Helen Simson, President