

ERINOAKKIDS

Centre for Treatment and Development

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Team announced to design and build ErinoakKids' Redevelopment Project



Artist's concept of the new Brampton site, showing its courtyard and Respite Centre.

In November, ErinoakKids, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), and Infrastructure Ontario announced the selection of Peel-Halton Partnership (PHP) to design, build and finance our three new facilities in Brampton, Oakville and Mississauga.

The key members of PHP's team are Bondfield Construction Company Ltd. (developer and constructor), Stantec Architecture (lead architects) and Rocklynn Capital Inc. (financial advisors). The selection of PHP is the result of an open, fair and competitive procurement process that began in January 2013.

Our Redevelopment Project allows us to consolidate our patchwork of primarily leased office spaces into new purpose-built facilities designed to meet the needs of children with disabilities and

special needs. We will more than double our treatment and therapy space, from 128,000 square feet to over 280,000 square feet.

The new facilities are scheduled to open early in 2017 and will offer:

- Welcoming accessible spaces for therapy and treatment
- 26-bed respite centre in Brampton
- Family and staff resource centres
- Warm-water therapy pool (Brampton)
- Audiology, hearing aid fitting and dispensing areas
- Youth drop-in centres
- Adapted fitness facilities
- Outdoor areas for therapy
- Accessible playgrounds
- And much more!

Bridget Fewtrell President & CEO



Achieving the next key milestone in our Redevelopment Project — that is, choosing the best team to finalize design and build our new facilities — has generated great excitement at ErinoakKids! After 10 years of advocacy and planning, we will soon start to see our vision come to life!

A tremendous amount of energy and related work has brought us to this point, and more is still to be done. Over the next few months we will work closely with Peel-Halton Partnership to finalize the intricate design details of our new facilities. Staff from across the organization will contribute their expertise to this exercise as we review space plans, room layouts, furniture and equipment placement, and more. By June the final design will be complete. Groundbreaking is expected in late Spring, so stay tuned for details about this momentous event!

We are extremely grateful to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, which is providing all of the funds needed for the land purchase, design, and construction of our new facilities. Our \$20-million *In My Dreams* capital campaign is raising funds to equip the new sites. You can read more about the campaign on page 2 or visit erinoakkids.ca/inmydreams.

Bridget Fewtrell

A new world of independence awaits Alex

Shawnde Coombs-Salmon, 17, is known as Alex to friends and family. Many people also know him as DJ Skinnyzy, the ultimate-cool disc jockey spinning the tunes that get people dancing at weddings, birthdays or other events. His DJ business is just one example of how much Alex has accomplished since coming to ErinoakKids at age 4.

Alex was born with spina bifida, a birth defect in which the spine does not form completely, leaving the spinal cord exposed and unprotected. He has endured multiple operations and medical complications over the years and the condition has affected his growth and mobility. However, it has never limited his ambitions.

"I started my DJ business in 2005 when I was eight," Alex says. "People liked my mixes. I've been doing DJ work now for nine years."

This past summer Alex reached a milestone when he graduated from the ErinoakKids' Independent Living Program (ILP). The 11-day program, held at the Sheridan College residence in Oakville, teaches young people with disabilities leaving the care of ErinoakKids the skills they need to become more independent.

"It was a little scary, getting to know people and taking a risk outside my comfort zone," Alex recalls. However, he soon overcame his uneasiness. "I liked learning how to do cooking and shopping. I learned how to handle documents and how to make a proper resume."

That resume will come in handy as Alex looks ahead.

"After high school I'm thinking of going back to Sheridan College to do something in the multimedia world. But after that I want to study at Ryerson University in paediatric care and help kids who have spina bifida."



Alex, known in the business as DJ Skinnyzy, mixes some tunes in his home office / master control room.

Join our Dream Team to help kids right here at home

Support our \$20-million *In My Dreams* campaign today! Your gift is vital to helping ErinoakKids continue its outstanding care when we open our three new treatment centres in Peel and Halton in early 2017.

Donations to the *In My Dreams* campaign will help provide the specialized treatment and therapy equipment needed to deliver medical, therapy and support services at our new sites.

In addition, the campaign will enable us to continue providing programs and services that are not funded by the province but are critical to the ability of our clients to grow up strong and resilient.

Your investment can help us make a difference in the lives of children and youth with disabilities and special needs, right here at home. For more information, please contact Magdalena (Meg) Bodnar at 905-855-2690 ext. 4235. To donate today, visit: erinoakkids.ca/inmydreams

Celebrating our Pride & Joy



Pride & Joy Branching Out Award winner Spencer Morgan with guest host Ben Mulrone.

On Friday, October 24, 2014, ErinoakKids and special guest Ben Mulrone, of CTV'S ETALK, hosted the Pride & Joy Awards with an Oscar flair for more than 300 guests at the Oakville Conference Centre. Our annual awards ceremony, presented this year by Scotiabank, celebrated the achievements of the extraordinary children and youth we serve, along with some outstanding corporate and community supporters. The children receiving awards represented the challenges, successes and dreams of the 15,000 clients we serve annually.

Guests were so inspired by the accomplishments of the award recipients, as well as the dedication and commitment of their families and therapists, that the funds raised during the evening exceeded our expectations! Funds raised will support our \$20 million *In My Dreams* campaign. Mark your calendars for next year's event: Friday, October 23, 2015 at the Oakville Conference Centre.

You can view photos of the 2014 Pride & Joy Awards and learn more about the recipients on our website.

Upcoming Events

May 24, 2015: Movin' for Kids fundraiser at Lakeside Park, Mississauga (see website).