



*Celebrating Niagara's early learning & child  
care community with a Medieval Masquerade*

## **2015 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence**

November 19, 2015

presented by

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre

primary event sponsor

Louise Kool & Galt



### **Agenda**

**5:30 pm**

Doors Open • Cash Bar • Harpist • Silent Auction  
Food Stations • Harpist

**6:20 to 6:30 pm**

Opening remarks and Entertainment Featuring  
Lori Love 105.7 EZ Rock and Historical Recreation Group

**7:30 pm**

Silent Auction and Black Box Raffle Close

**7:30 to 8:50 pm**

Awards Presentation

**8:55 pm**

Black Box Raffle Draw

**9:00 pm**

Closing and Silent Auction Winners

# Welcome and Greetings

## Greetings from the Board and Staff Team of the Early Childhood Community Development Centre

Welcome to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence and thank you for your excitement and enthusiasm for this year's Medieval Masquerade! Our Board and Staff Team feel privileged each year to host such a worthwhile event. It is our opportunity to show gratitude for the exceptional efforts and accomplishments each of you contributes to ensuring the highest quality early learning environments for Niagara's children and their families. The ECCDC couldn't host this celebration without the support and contributions of many. We are so thankful to our community partners, business sponsors, silent auction donors, and Awards of Excellence Planning Committee who all play a significant role in pulling an event of this magnitude together. We are thrilled to have Louise Kool and Galt's longstanding support as our Primary Event Sponsor contributing significant finances, as well as an amazing door prize draw each year! We are also pleased to have representatives from the College of Early Childhood Educators and the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario attend to celebrate with us, as well as the ongoing support of Niagara Region Children's Services. We congratulate all individuals and programs who are being recognized this evening and extend our deepest appreciation to everyone in attendance, for the contributions that each of you continue to make. We believe there is no better place for young children to grow, play and learn than in Niagara's early learning community!

Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Interim Executive Director,  
Kim Cole, Chair, ECCDC Board of Directors



## A message from the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario

It is the AECEO's privilege to support the Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence Celebration. Events that celebrate and recognize excellence, professionalism, innovation and commitment in early learning and child care professionals are a powerful way to acknowledge and promote the outstanding work of the individuals in our field.

The AECEO offers our sincerest congratulations to all of the honourees for their exceptional work, and to the ECCDC for continued success and the important contribution this annual celebration makes to the early learning community in the Niagara Region.



## Congratulations from the College of Early Childhood Educators!

Tonight, your peers have recognized you for your professionalism and excellence in the field of early childhood education. The College of Early Childhood Educators also recognizes your achievement and your important leadership role in the profession. You serve as an outstanding example of the important work that registered early childhood educators do for children, families and communities.

Lois Mahon  
President, College of Early Childhood Educators



## In Celebration of Early Childhood Educators: Jim Bradley, MPP, St. Catharines

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for St. Catharines, I would like to take this opportunity to once again welcome everyone to the Annual Niagara Early Childhood Educators Awards of Excellence organized by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre on the evening of Thursday November 19, 2015.

The support from the Early Childhood Community Development Centre for organizing this important evening is deserving of the highest of compliments.

While books provide invaluable knowledge and resources, it is not those pages alone that will teach a young child to read, or motivate our children to develop the skills and knowledge they need to achieve excellence.

Early Childhood Educators play a vital role in ensuring that our children acquire the talent and confidence they need to succeed early in their lives and the Early Childhood Educators Awards recognize those educators who are committed to the healthy development of children, the wellness of families and the prosperity of the Niagara Region.

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is Niagara's number one source for child care information, resources, equipment and training and I am pleased to have the opportunity, once again, to recognize the outstanding quality of early childhood educators in our part of the province.

*With kindest personal regards, I am*

Yours sincerely,  
Jim Bradley, MPP St. Catharines



## Niagara Region Children's Services

On behalf of Children's Services management team and staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all those joining us and a heartfelt congratulations to this year's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence recipients. While Children's Services manages the overall child care system in Niagara, and seeks to work with service providers and community partners to continually strive for improved quality and planning with the best interest of the children, it is ultimately the Registered Early Childhood Educators who make the child care system successful. Through their passion and dedicated work they contribute to and support the healthy intellectual, physical, spiritual, emotional and social development of children in their care.

It is a very exciting time to be a RECE, and while at times the changes are happening rather quickly, I believe Niagara is well poised to not just handle the changes but rather excel given the existence and strength of Niagara Child Care Sector, Quality Child Care Niagara, service providers and their staff.

Congratulations to this year's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence recipients and their colleagues who continue to demonstrate their passion and commitment to the young children in their care.

Children's Services would also like to congratulate the recipients of the Contributor Award. While their contributions may not be apparent they are significant for their impacts to the young children and their families in Niagara.

Darlene Edgar  
Director, Niagara Region Children's Services



## Greetings on Behalf of Niagara Children's Planning Council Message

On behalf of all members of the Niagara Children's Planning Council, I wish to extend congratulations to each of you for being recognized at the 2015 Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence. Your expertise and work with the children contribute to giving each of them a 'best start to a good life' and setting them on the road to successful achievement. Wishing you all the best as you continue to make a difference for children and families throughout Niagara.

Darlene Edgar  
Chair, Early Years Niagara



## Extending Gratitude and Wishes of Congratulation from Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee

Hear Ye, Hear Ye; On behalf of the Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee, we extend our warmest wishes to all the kings, queens, knights and noblemen for your continued passion and dedication for the children and families in Niagara! The Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee serves as a voice supporting higher standards in child care for all children in Niagara. We are delighted to celebrate with you and would like to congratulate all of this year's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence recipients, guests, and to all those who work so hard to benefit our children and their families in Niagara.

Congratulations!

Kim Cole, Chair, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee  
[www.eccdc.org/NCCS](http://www.eccdc.org/NCCS)



# E<sup>n</sup>tertainment

## Event Emcee



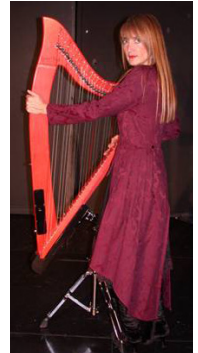
**Lori Love** is celebrating 15 years of waking Niagara up as the host of the 105.7 EZ Rock Morning Show!

Monday to Friday, Lori does her best to provide listeners with a glimpse of the world right from your own backyard ... with a laugh or two along the way!

# Entertainment

## Musical Entertainment

Carol Farrar is a professional harpist working out of the Niagara Region. She has performed at many concert venues including Balls Falls Conservation Area, Rockton Celtic Fair, and The Old Mill Inn in Toronto, and at the inaugurations of judges and Senators, at art exhibition openings and corporate events. Her television appearances includes two performances on Breakfast Television on CITY-TV and A.M. Buffalo Channel 7. Carol's CD received airplay on CBC radio, and was also featured on a Buffalo radio station's 'Celtic Hour'. In addition, Carol has performed in over 1000 weddings and cocktail hours in the last 20 years. She is a regular performer at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara-on-the-lake, and has performed in costume at many Victorian-themed teas and other themed functions. For bookings please contact [harpniagara@hotmail.com](mailto:harpniagara@hotmail.com)



We are pleased to feature Carol at our event!

## Historical Recreation Group

The Historical Recreation Group is an international non-profit, educational organization devoted to the study and recreation of the middle ages and renaissance periods.

Visit <http://baronyofrisingwaters.org/> for more information.



Play was also important to the lives of children in the Middle Ages. Children's toys were almost always handmade by the family. These toys included dolls, tops and blocks. Children in the Middle Ages sometimes even made their own toys out of materials found around the house.

[www.thefinertimes.com/Middle-Ages/children-in-the-middle-ages.html#sthash.D14lsL80.dpuf](http://www.thefinertimes.com/Middle-Ages/children-in-the-middle-ages.html#sthash.D14lsL80.dpuf)



# Business Sponsors

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is grateful to the following local businesses for their generous financial contribution to the 2015 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence celebration. Their donations toward this event reflects their sincere gratitude and understanding of the importance of early learning and child care for building a stronger Niagara

## Event Sponsor

Louise Kool and Galt has worked alongside Canadian educators for over 50 years providing quality resources, furniture, classroom equipment and early years materials. The first of its kind in Canada, the Annual Awards of Excellence celebrates the outstanding dedication and accomplishments of Niagara's early learning community. Louise Kool and Galt is proud to be the event sponsor for the 2015 Medieval Masquerade and we look forward to joining you for a very special celebration of the work you all do in helping Niagara's families thrive and prosper. We are also grateful for our long standing partnership with the Early Childhood Community Development Centre and are pleased to have shared this special journey with you. Wishing you all the best in your outstanding work with Niagara's children and families!



Cathy Elliott, Senior Sales Representative



## Gold level sponsors

A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara • [www.acw.on.ca](http://www.acw.on.ca)

Meridian Credit Union • [www.meridiancu.ca](http://www.meridiancu.ca)

St. Catharines Standard • [www.stcatharinesstandard.ca](http://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca)



The Standard

# Business Sponsors

## Silver level

YMCA of Niagara • [www.ymcaofniagara.org](http://www.ymcaofniagara.org)

HiMama Inc. • [www.himama.com](http://www.himama.com)

PenFinancial Credit Union • [www.penfinancial.com](http://www.penfinancial.com)



## Bronze level

Minuteman Press • [www.niagara.minutemanpress.com](http://www.niagara.minutemanpress.com)

University of Guelph-Humber - Early Childhood Degree Completion Program • [www.guelphhumber.ca/ecdc](http://www.guelphhumber.ca/ecdc)

Future Access Inc. • [www.futureaccess.ca](http://www.futureaccess.ca)



# Silent Auction Donors

Amira Mirdawi • Brock University Sports School • Brock University Youth University • Cheeky Monkeys • Chocolate F/X • Christine Lever • Classic Touch Hair Salon • Coppola's • Creature Comforts Pet Services • Criveller Cakes, Pastries and Chocolates • DSBN • DSBN Parenting and Family Literacy Centres • Easy Spaces • Ed Learn Ford • Fresco's • Greaves • Holiday Inn Suites & Conference Centre • Jen Smith • Jiffy Lube • Joseph's Estate Wines • Kelly Rempel – Independent Scentsy Consultant • Kelsey's • L'Attitudes Salon and Spa • Linda Andras - Epicure • Marolyn Corriere • Mastermind Toys • Mercedes Benz • Neob Niagara • Niagara Helicopters • Niagara Parks • Old Winery Restaurant • Oliv Tasting Room • Ontario Science Centre • Picards Peanuts • Pizza Hut • Pla-Mor Bowling • Rende Salon • Shari Hill • Small Talk Vineyards • Sparrow Lakes Golf Club • Sunrise Café • The Shaw Festival • Turtle Pond Toys • Willow Den • Wright Brothers • Young Headz • Zippy Zoom



# Awards

A list of the winner names will be distributed at the end of the evening to insert within your memory book. Congratulations to all the individuals recognized for exceptional achievements.

## **NEW! Early Childhood Educator Award**

This new awards category provides an opportunity for early learning and child care supervisors to show their appreciation for the outstanding efforts of a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE). The educator models professionalism and excellence in applying Ontario's Early Learning Framework *How Does Learning Happen?* in his or her daily work.

## **Margaret Hamilton Student Award Winner**

Presented by the Niagara College Early Childhood Education Program to a graduating student who has excelled in both academics and field placements and who is likely to make a major contribution to the early learning and child care profession during the course of his or her career.

## **Brock Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Outstanding Student Award Winner**

Sponsored by Brock University's Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program, this award is presented to a student in her or his final year of studies who best demonstrates the standards of practice and ethics of care in both academic pursuits and contributions to the early childhood community.

## **Emergent Literacy Award**

Sponsored by Speech Services Niagara, this award recognizes a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) who demonstrates strong emergent literacy skills throughout the day and in all areas of the classroom.

## **Eco-Friendly Child Care Practices Award**

Sponsored by Niagara Region, this award recognizes an early learning and child care program for demonstrating eco-friendly practices in all areas of its child care operation.

## **Contributor Awards for Volunteers and Colleagues**

This very special awards category provides an opportunity for early learning and care programs to show their appreciation for the outstanding efforts of volunteers and non-registered early childhood educator staff members who make outstanding contributions to the success of Niagara's early learning and child care programs.

# Awards

## **Commitment to Continuous Professional Learning and Community Collaboration Award**

Sponsored by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre and Niagara Region Children's Services, this award category recognizes the outstanding professional learning efforts of a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE). To receive the Commitment to Continuous Professional Learning and Community Collaboration Award, the nominee must demonstrate exceptional efforts in the pursuit of ongoing professional learning opportunities as well as engage in ongoing activities for the benefit of developing strong, collaborative relationships with community partners.

## **Family Support Program Practitioner Award**

This category recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to a family support program while supporting the Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT) principles.

## **Licensed Child Care Centre Administrator Award**

Sponsored by Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee, this award recognizes an exceptional administrator of a licensed child care centre who demonstrates a high level of skill and commitment in her/his administrative role as outlined by the Occupational Standards for Child Care Administrators.

## **Full Day Early Learning Team Excellence Award**

This category recognizes individuals who make outstanding contributions to strengthening Full Day Kindergarten in Niagara through the demonstration of the fundamental principles of Full Day Kindergarten amongst children and families.

## **Quality Child Care Niagara Exceptional Program Award**

The Quality Child Care Niagara advisory committee has sponsored this award to recognize a program that exemplifies the QCCN philosophy both within its program and in the broader community.

In the middle ages young children amused themselves with toys and simple games, playing ball or hoops, racing, chasing each other, and engaging their imaginations as children have done for millennia. Climbing trees, walls and other structures made up much of their adventures. Lacking specific playgrounds, they played wherever was convenient: by or in the fields, in the house or yard, even in the streets.

[http://historymedren.about.com/od/medievalchildren/a/child\\_play\\_3.htm](http://historymedren.about.com/od/medievalchildren/a/child_play_3.htm)

# With Sincere Thanks

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre wishes to extend gratitude to the following individuals and businesses for supporting the 2015 Niagara early learning and child care awards of excellence. Your time, support and dedication to this year's celebration is greatly appreciated and helped us recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Niagara's early learning and child care community.

## 2015 Niagara Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence Planning Committee

The ECCDC expresses sincere thanks to this year's planning committee members and their respective organizations for ongoing advisement, support, creativity, enthusiasm and dedication to ensuring a meaningful and engaging evening for recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Niagara's early learning and child care community.

## Additional Event supporters

- The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario
- The College of Early Childhood Educators
- Niagara College
- Brock University
- Speech Services Niagara
- Lori Love, EZ Rock 105.7
- District School Board of Niagara
- Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Darlene Edgar and Niagara Region Children's Services
- St. Catharines Standard for their long-standing support
- Victoria Davis and the team at the Holiday Inn and Suites St. Catharines Conference Centre for their venue coordination and longstanding support of the Awards of Excellence





If you would like to share your suggestions for next year's Awards of Excellence award categories, celebration plans, or if you are interested in participating on the 2016 planning committee, please call the ECCDC at 905.646.7311 ext. 321 or email Lorrey Ariel Bonilla at [larial@eccdc.org](mailto:larial@eccdc.org)