

# Join Us! For a **FILM NIGHT**

about the **importance of communication** and learning **new ways of listening**

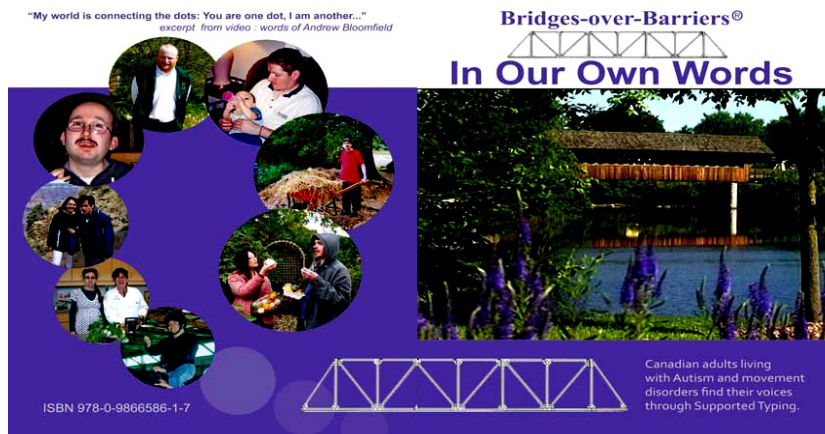
**Tuesday Nov 22, 2011**

6:30 to 8:30

**355 Church St. between  
Carlton and Gerard**

Wellesley Room (basement level)  
Wheelchair Accessible. Green  
'P' & street Parking on McGill  
St, at back of building. Close to  
College Park Subway.

**Everyone is WELCOME.  
Event is FREE.**



**In Our Own Words** a short film by members of **Bridges-Over-Barriers**:

*"Though I may not speak with my voice I have plenty to say."*

A group of friends from all over Southern Ontario who live with neuro-motor disabilities and do not speak reliably due to the complex movement and communication challenges of Autism have been meeting monthly in Guelph since 2004 and breaking ground using Supported Typing (a form of AAC- Augmentative and Alternative Communication) to express themselves, develop and share communication skills and technology ideas, and promote the possibilities and power of making choices and feeling supported to direct their own lives.

"We share our ideas on many topics, supported by family and friends who believe in us, facilitate in practical ways--and listen! Groups like ours are rare because we have been assumed not to have thoughts or feelings and we have not been educated or supported to express ourselves. Most of us have been isolated and excluded, especially as adults. Supported Typing, the form of AAC most of us use, is very hard. It strains our bodies and minds. But it is all we have. So it is good to do it and we are glad we can. The experience of sharing our struggles and strategies gave us the idea of Bridges-Over-Barriers as a name and a vision of helping others who have no voices."

***We will be joined by Bridges-Over-Barriers member, Matthew Macdonald, his mother Susan and a supporter Linda.***

Come to find out more about the very important perspective of these creative and dedicated communicators.

For more about 'In Our Own Words' and Bridges-Over-Barriers

<http://www.ont-autism.uoguelph.ca/Bridges-2011-info.pdf>

More from founding member Andrew Bloomfield, including his autobiography showing that a good life is possible. *Bridges Over Barriers, My Life with Autism* published this month: <http://www.ont-autism.uoguelph.ca/AB-2011-blurb.pdf> and Author's intro: <http://www.ont-autism.uoguelph.ca/AB-intro-2011.pdf>

*"You don't need to carry me over the bridge ... just walk by my side and be my friend..."*

Foreword: <http://www.ont-autism.uoguelph.ca/AB2011-Foreword-DD.pdf>

"People who do not communicate in the usual ways are likely to be systematically underestimated. They will often surprise us if we invest the effort to find alternative modes of communication that match their individual needs, and will be able to develop to their potential." – Dave DeVidi

**For more information, please contact:**

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