

THE TRILLIUM

Volume 33, No. 1

June 2009

From the Chair

It is hard to believe but the lazy, hazy days of summer are just around the corner! It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming Spring and by the time you receive this newsletter it will be June. I am sure if you have school age children that they have already advised you how many days of school remain and you have to add the tasks of arranging alternative care and summer activities to your already busy schedules!

Congratulations to the Orillia Block Parent® Program for hosting a terrific conference and AGM. A total of 43 delegates representing 16 Community Block Parent Programs and 5 Police Services enjoyed interesting workshops, productive sharing sessions, great food and plenty of warm Block Parent camaraderie! We hope the delegates returned home with a rejuvenated enthusiasm for their Community Block Parent Programs! Thank you to Tracey Calder-Rosettani, Chair of the Fort Erie and Area Block Parent® Program, who volunteered to host our 2010 conference and AGM in the beautiful community of Fort Erie. We will let you know as soon as the dates are confirmed.



Jeanette Barlow (left) & April-Lynn Hill, Orillia BPP

We would like to welcome our newest member to the Ontario Board of Directors. Terra Everitt from the Chatham-Kent Block Parent® Program was appointed as a Director in the office of Secretary effective May 19th. Our sincere thanks to Terra for volunteering for this position and we look forward to working with her! We are still in need of a Director which is a great entry level position to the Board. There are no specific responsibilities assigned to this position but you will be involved in all matters brought before the Board and you may wish to volunteer to handle specific projects as they arise. If you would like more information, please contact me.

Please refer to this newsletter and the minutes of the AGM for information about our new recruitment postcard. It is our hope that these postcards will be distributed to hundreds of households in all Block Parent communities in Ontario. Its eye catching photo and simple message will raise awareness of the Program and increase the number of Block Parent volunteers.



We hope you have a very enjoyable summer with many opportunities for rest and relaxation with family and friends!

Marg.

2009 Conference & AGM

The OBPPI Conference and AGM was held in Orillia, Ontario, April 24th to 26th. There were 16 Community Block Parent Programs represented and 7 Police Liaison officers.

Sharing Session

Our survey results showed that the Friday evening Sharing Session, held during the Meet and Greet Wine and Cheese Social and facilitated by Johanna Hopper and Claudette Richardson, proved to be an overwhelming success. Delegates from across the province introduced themselves and briefly talked about their involvement with the Block Parent Program. The sharing circle brought together the experience of long term members and the enthusiasm of new volunteers to create a successful networking atmosphere. It provided the participants with the opportunity to talk about the challenges of the new screening and sign exchange process while sharing strategies to move forward and to market and recruit Block Parents. Communicating and working with our Senior population was recognized as an opportunity which needed to be actively pursued. Delegates expressed their pleasure with the outreach efforts made by the Ontario Board Members including the telephone contacts, emails and the new BP Connections bulletin. They were grateful for the up-to-date Community Sharing List and voiced their desire to stay connected and learn from each other, possibly even through Facebook and Twitter.



Workshops

Our workshops were well received and said by all delegates to contain pertinent information which would be taken back to their communities and shared.

Cyber Risk: Rewiring Our Youth: OPP Sgt. Robyn McEachern.

Sgt. McEachern discussed the many dangers on the Internet, and explained specifically predators, cyber bullying, desensitization and scams. Every adult in the room admitted to not knowing more about the Internet than their kids.



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Ontario Block Parent® Program Inc. Board of Directors 2008 - 09

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Director

Position currently vacant. Please contact the Chair if you would like to apply.

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Testimonials

If you or any Block Parents in your community have experienced any incident requiring the use of a Block Parent home, please share it with us. Your testimonial will show our sponsors and police partners that we are a valuable and much needed Crime Prevention Program.

Board Positions

We are still in need of a Director on our Ontario Board. This is an excellent entry level way to learn about the Block Parent Program from a provincial perspective. There are no specific duties associated with this position - however, if a project comes along for which you feel you would be well suited, you can take it on alone, or as the head of a sub-committee of your choosing, if the task is too large for one person.



Networking after a recent marketing and fundraising presentation to the Board of Directors.

Please consider joining the Board; new members are always welcome. For more information contact Marg Rooke, Chair of the OBPPI, at mrooke902@rogers.com.



Notice Board



Logo Guidelines

The revised guidelines for the use of the Block Parent symbol and words have been established by the National Program, which governs the use of these words and symbol and must be aware of when and how they are being used. Your signed License Agreement with BPPCI permits you to use their registered trademarks with the approval of the Ontario Program, acting as National's agent.

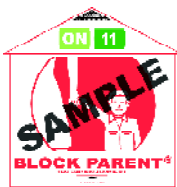
It is the Ontario Board's responsibility to approve all uses of the Block Parent logo prior to any items being produced or published and report a summary of its use to BPPCI each year. We are to ensure all the criteria, as outlined in the guidelines, is being met and the purpose for which it is being used does not pose a risk to the Program. Requests for logo use approval can be emailed to Marg Rooke, along with a copy of the draft. Please do not send any items to print or production before receiving approval; please do not change the draft after receiving approval unless you notify the Chair again.

The registered trademark © must be placed at the end of the words Block Parent. The Block Parent symbol image with no words may be used on letterhead, promotional and educational resources, but must be a true reproduction and in the size format and colours specified in the BPPCI logo guidelines. The registered trademark © must appear in the upper right corner of the image and the copyright information (©BPPCI 1968 or Block Parent® Program of Canada Inc., 1968) must appear under the symbol.



The registered trademark © must appear in the upper right corner of the image and the copyright information (©BPPCI 1968 or Block Parent® Program of Canada Inc., 1968) must appear under the symbol.

If the symbol is used in the window sign format it must have the word "SAMPLE" in black capital letters embedded across it. The window sign symbol may be used on a website as a low resolution file, and as part of a photograph incorporating activity or other objects (i.e. in a window or being held by a person), but must never stand alone.



Please refer to the BPPCI Logo Guidelines document for a more detailed explanation of the Block Parent symbol use.

By-Laws

Our new By-Laws are now complete and have been sent to the CRA for approval. A final copy will be made available to you upon the completion of the approval process.

2009 Block Parent Week

This year Block Parent Week will be held October 25th to 31st. Since it will be ending on Halloween, a possible slogan suggested at the AGM was, "Block Parents - there is nothing scary about us." If you have any ideas for slogans/special activities for Block Parent Week please forward them to us and we will forward them to the National Program for consideration.

Bring awareness about the Block Parent Program throughout your communities by planning special events during this week - distribute activity or colouring books, bookmarks, pamphlets to school students, include advertisements, such as our "Missed the Bus" poster, in your local newspapers, deliver our postcards and offer your services in radio interviews and public service announcements. And don't forget to tell us all about it in the Trillium!

Annual Report

Our 2009 Annual Report is now available and a copy has been sent to all Community Block Parent Programs. Please circulate this report to all your board members, police liaisons and any corporate or business supporters you have, or direct them to our website to download it.

New Resources

Resource Materials Listing - revised for 2009, please destroy all previous editions.

Halloween Bookmark - 10¢ each plus shipping; easy to read rules for safe Trick-or-Treating.

Personal Identification Record - no charge; includes all the information the police need in the case of a missing person, whether child, adult or senior.

Postcards - our "Missed the Bus" poster was a huge success. It is now available in postcard format.

T-Shirts/Golf Shirts - these are available with or without your Community Program name. Please contact the Purchasing Director to place your order.

BPLink

If you have not yet received the Master Template file into which to enter your Block Parent data, or your login password, please contact Teresa immediately, at 905-228-0424 or teresa@cogeco.ca. I will be contacting all communities over the summer to check on their progress in completing their database, to give login information to use on BPLink and to help them edit their data once uploaded to the national database. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need help with this program.

CRA

As part of the Small and Rural Charities (SARC) initiative, the Charities Directorate is piloting webinars as a convenient option for charities to learn about their requirements under the Income Tax Act and to communicate with the Directorate. A webinar is an interactive online presentation. Certain recorded webinars will be posted in this new section as webcasts and will be available in both high-speed and dial-up versions.

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/chrts/cmmnctn/wbnsr/menu-eng.html>

Many of their PDF fillable forms are now saveable. Simply download the fillable/saveable form and save your work as

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Conference *continued from page 1 ...*

Adults view the Internet as a source of information and current news; kids use it for trying on other "faces/identities" and often have very different personalities online. Personal information put on the Internet, no matter how innocent, is there to stay and can be accessed by anyone: we should be careful when creating profiles on such sites as MSN and Facebook. She also showed examples of young children's websites, such as Neopets, Webkins and Haboo and talked about her work on these sites teaching youngsters about cyber safety.

Marketing Your Program: Lori Gottlieb.

Ms. Gottlieb pointed out the recruitment and marketing issues non-profits have in this economy, such as lack of time and computer technology, downsizing, restructuring, cutbacks, etc. Today's volunteers, many of whom are employed, are multigenerational and sophisticated, and have high expectations of making a difference to society through challenging work.

For best marketing strategies and sustained volunteer recruitment you need to demonstrate how your program is different, what you have to offer and what you need from others.



Elderly Abuse: OPP Sgt. Robin Sanders.

Sgt. Sanders talked about her work as the OPP Seniors Assistance Team Coordinator, promoting information about and the prevention of seniors abuse. She pointed out that seniors do not report abuse out of shame, humiliation, denial and a fear that they will lose their independence and be sent to a nursing home. Elder abuse can be physical, psychological, financial or neglect. There is no current legislation to protect seniors - it is where domestic abuse was 20 years ago.



BPLink for Dummies: Johanna Hopper and Teresa Stalis.

This workshop was a good exercise to familiarize users with adding, deleting and editing their Program data on BPLink. Several issues came out of the discussion; these have been forwarded to the BPPCI BPLink programmer who is working diligently to include them in the national database.

Train the Trainer: Gail McMahon, London BPP.

Gail led the group through a mock school talk about the Block Parent Program to show how to create a successful classroom presentation. She has the London Block Parent Program presentation available on CD to anyone interested in using it in their community.



Thank you to Claudette Richardson for introducing all our speakers and, and to Laurie Melcher for presenting them with our thank yous.



Awards

This year's awards were as follows:

Margaret MacGee Award

Teresa Stalis, OBPPI, Niagara Falls



Block Parent Award

- Woodhouse Family, Niagara Falls Block Parent® Program
- Kristin Oliver, London Block Parent® Program
- Betty Spearman, London Block Parent® Program
- Cochrane Block Parent® Program



Lynda Hendry receives the Block Parent Award on behalf of the Woodhouse Family.



Gail McMahon receives the Block Parent Awards on behalf of the London recipients.

Thank You

We would like to extend our thanks to the St. Thomas Block Parent® Program for their continued support of the Pat Houston Memorial Conference Fund - this year they donated \$500 dollars.



The St. Thomas Block Parent® Program also donated funds to our two new Programs - St. Catharines and Fort Erie and Area - to help with start-up costs.

Wendy Farmer, Chair of the St. Thomas Block Parent® Program presents the cheque to Marg Rooke, OBPPI Chair.



Wendy Farmer presents a cheque to Tracey Calder-Rosettani, Chair of the Fort Erie & Area Block Parent® Program.



Wendy Farmer presents a cheque to Leah Jonah, Chair of the St. Catharines Block Parent® Program.

We would also like to thank the Aylmer/Springfield, Cochrane, London, Pelham, Sydenham and District, Sault Ste. Marie and St. Thomas Block Parent Programs for their support of the Sister Program which allows communities with limited funds to cover their annual registration fees.





Block Talk



Kingston Claudette Richardson, Chair

On Saturday, May 23rd, Kingston Block Parents participated in a "Get Active Fair" held at the Wally Elmer Arena. We had a display, gave out Safety Whiz Kids Activity Books, Personal ID Records and a number of Information Manuals and Block Parent Application forms.



In partnership with the "Fun and Friendly Committee", we also designed and conducted an informal survey to help rate the security concerns of local adults and children, and are currently writing a report about the results.



The event was a success, there was a great deal of positive interaction, and we were happy to be a part of it.

Ingersoll Berry Lu Dustow, Chair

Mr. William Mitchell will assume the role of Chairman of the Ingersoll Block Parent[®] Program as of July 1, 2009. Betty Lu Dustow will continue to serve on the executive as Past Chair and as Secretary.

The Ingersoll Block Parent[®] Program held a fingerprinting clinic on April 24 at the Woodstock arena complex. It was a benefit hockey game between the police and firefighters of Ingersoll and Woodstock ... the police won. The game was in honour of the Hawkins family, and the funds raised will be used during the year for worthy causes. Both the Woodstock and Ingersoll Block Parent[®] Programs participated in this special activity.



William and Roberta Mitchell, Kim DeGraaf and Steve and Betty Lu Dustow attended the Volunteer Appreciation Evening, sponsored by town council. Betty Lu talked about the Ingersoll Block Parent[®] Program's accomplishments and future goals, and thanked the Town for providing financial support to the Ingersoll Block Parent[®] Program once again.

On May 5, Betty Lu and Wilma Mutsaers attended Princess Anne Elementary School and gave a community safety net and personal safety for kids presentation. The school extended an invitation for future presentations.

On May 21 Betty Lu was interviewed by FM 104.7 radio. During her interview Betty Lu suggested safety rules for parents to review with their children. During a follow-up interview with Woodstock's Mayor Harding, Betty Lu Dustow's efforts to help educate children to keep safe were discussed. Mayor Harding spoke of his and Woodstock city council's financial support of the Woodstock Block Parent[®] Program and of the need for additional volunteers.

On June 17 Betty Lu Dustow and Wilma Mutsaers will be participating with the fire service in Ingersoll for Emergency Preparation Day and Open House at the firehall. Betty Lu will be presenting the "Stranger Safety" message to school students. In the evening Kim DeGraaf, William Mitchell, Tanya Perry and an Auxillary OPP Officer will be conducting a fingerprinting clinic for the public.

On July 9 to 12 will be the 10th Annual Canterbury Folk Festival at which the Ingersoll Block Parent[®] Program will be manning the Lost Kiddie Tent.

Cochrane Jean-Louis Gervais, Chair

Every year since we began in 2004, the new Board of the Cochrane Block Parent[®] Program participates in different events occurring in our community over the course of the year. In February we hold our Winter Carnival, which attracts thousands of people from our community and other northern communities. We decorate a van with Block Parent banners, balloons and our sponsors' logos and we enter the Carnival Parade which, this year, attracted well over 500 children. I know there were over 500 children because we ran out of lollipops!



Community Chairs

Be sure to make copies of this newsletter and distribute them to your committee members, police liaisons, Safety Village contacts, community sponsors, School Boards, etc. If you would like an electronic version please contact me at teresa@cogeco.ca. Encourage everyone to visit us at www.blockparent.on.ca for information, downloads, activities and links.



Block Talk

Niagara Falls

Lynda Hendry, Chair

Our ID team assisted in the Port Colborne Safety day on May 23rd - we were kept very busy! On May 31st we have been asked to hold an ID clinic at our YMCA at a big kid's event day. In June we will hold an ID clinic at Applewood School in St. Catharines and June 13th is our day at the Lion's carnival in Chippawa.

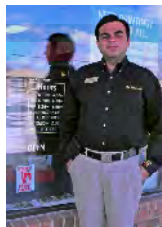
We have been asked by our MP's office to once again speak about our Photo ID program. Seniors are in great need of emergency ID. It also gives us a chance to hand out our seniors pamphlets.

Lynda Hendry presents the Block Parent Award to the Woodhouse family at a Safety Day at the Niagara Falls YMCA. They were very pleased with their family volunteer award.



Niagara Falls' newest Block Parents, Patrick and Tara Adams, editor and General Manager / Publisher of Niagara SNAP, show off their new sign, delivered by Lynda Hendry, Chair of the Niagara Falls Block Parent® Program.

Sunny Halani shows off the new Business Block Parent decal next to the entrance to The UPS Store on McLeod Road in Niagara Falls. The Falls' only other Business Block Parent Program is a branch of The Cooperators.



Coming Soon

Revisions

Over the last year we have seen many changes in the Block Parent Program. To reflect the new sign and procedures we have updated the Block Parent application and registration forms, have created the Block Parent Information Manual and have rewritten our by-laws. We have also been working diligently on revisions to our Procedure Manual, Business Block Parent Manual and Policy Paper. Our goal is to have one *Policy and Procedures Manual* which will contain everything you need to know about the administration of a Community Block Parent Program. We hope to have this completed in the fall.

Notice Board: CRA *continued from page 3 ...*

you go. When the form is complete, print a copy and mail it to the Charities Directorate.

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/chrts/formspubs/fllblfrms-eng.html>

As part of their ongoing effort to help small and rural charities meet their registration obligations the Charities Directorate has created samples of the T3010B, Registered Charity Information Return, with accompanying forms, and financial statements. The samples are provided to help charities better understand how to complete their information return, and what information should be provided in their financial statements.

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/chrts/prtng/rtrn/smpls-eng.html>

The latest issue of the Registered Charities Newsletter is now available.

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/charitiesnews-32/README.html>

Charitable Donations Since February 2009

Our sincere thanks to the following individuals who made very generous donations through our recent telemarketing campaigns. We appreciate your support!

Telemarketing Donations

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Mr. John P. Chipman	Mrs. Shirley Dickson
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