



THE TRILLIUM

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June 2011

From the Acting Chair

It is hard to believe the month of June is almost over and in a few short days, our neighbourhoods will be filled with the sounds of children enjoying their summer holidays. Hopefully you have some plans in place to enjoy the next few months, which I am sure will fly by very quickly. My goals for this summer are to tackle some painting jobs, the same jobs that, unfortunately, did not get completed last summer. I hope I am a bit more productive this year!



We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members of the Ontario Board of Directors. Claudette Richardson from the Kingston Block Parent® Program and Sue Ropp from the Dorchester Block Parent® Program responded to our urgent appeal for members and were appointed as Directors effective June 17th. Our sincere thanks to Claudette and Sue for volunteering to share their talents and time as Ontario Board members. Although small in number and still in dire need of additional volunteers, we have decided to forge ahead as a functioning Board until next year's AGM. Our top priorities during the next ten months will be Board recruitment and succession planning and establishing sustainable funding resources.

A huge thank you is extended to Ruth Bossence, Chair of the Chatham-Kent Block Parent® Program, and her committee members, for hosting a terrific conference and AGM. We hope the delegates returned home with a rejuvenated enthusiasm for their Community Programs.

Congratulations to this year's Block Parent Volunteer Award recipients Ramona Ostrander (Guelph Block Parent® Program), Heather Christie (Oshawa Block Parent® Program), Committee Members of the Kapuskasing Block Parent® Program and the Chatham-Kent Police Service. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service and commitment to your Community Programs.

We hope you and your families have a very enjoyable summer with many opportunities for well-deserved rest and relaxation!

Marg.

The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention.

Realtors Care Foundation

At the London St. Thomas Association of Realtors' Annual General Meeting held April 26, 2011, President Jack Lane presented OBPPI Past Chair Marg Rooke with a cheque for \$3,000. Our thanks to the Realtors Care Foundation for their generous ongoing support of the Ontario Block Parent® Program.



Block Parent® Week

This year Block Parent Week will be October 23 - 29. The theme is "Need help? Just knock!" A graphic to illustrate this theme is coming soon to www.blockparent.ca. You will be able to use this artwork for posters, letters and any materials you will create to promote the week.

Resources

Remember to order your resources for any events you may have coming up over Summer and into Fall, such as summer, back-to-school and Halloween safety reminders and special Block Parent Week events. These are available from Johanna Hopper at dhopper1637@rogers.com.

The National Program has created a new pamphlet which combines the former "Seniors and Block Parent®" and "Block Parent® ... A Safer Community". These can be ordered from Erin Susin at obppi@live.com.

Ontario Board of Directors

Would you like to be involved in shaping the future of the Block Parent® Program in the province of Ontario?

Do you want to be an integral part of the Program's continued success?

If so, please consider sharing your talents and strengths as a member of the Board of Directors.

For more information about Board positions, responsibilities and time commitment, please contact Marg Rooke at mrooke902@rogers.com or 519-438-2016.

Ontario Block Parent® Program Inc. Board of Directors 2011 - 2012

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Margaret MacGee Block Parent® Volunteer Award 2011

The Margaret MacGee Block Parent® Volunteer Award is named after one of the founding members of the Block Parent® Program. Margaret MacGee dedicated countless volunteer hours to the Program in its infancy and her tireless efforts expanded the Program across Canada. She became the first Chairman of the London Block Parent® Program in 1972. Five years later she became the first Chairman of the Ontario Block Parent® Program. She then became the driving force in establishing the Program nationally and in 1983 became the first Chairman of the Block Parent® Program of Canada. In honour of her dedication and humanitarian efforts, the Board of Directors of the Ontario Block Parent® Program created this special award to be presented at our annual conference to any Ontario Block Parent who meets the following criteria:

- must have been involved in the Block Parent® Program for more than 5 years
- must have actively served on a community or provincial board for at least 2 years
- must have demonstrated commitment to the Block Parent Program's Mission, Mandate and Goals, and
- must have truly made a difference to the Program in that without their input and involvement the Program would not be where it is today.

The recipient of this award receives a plaque and a cheque for \$100 to be donated to a charity of their choice. The Ontario Board considers it a great tribute to be able to offer this award to our Block Parent volunteers who are following in the footsteps of Margaret McGee.

Nominated by the Ontario Block Parent Board of Directors, the recipient of the 2011 Margaret MacGee Block Parent® Volunteer Award is Marg Rooke. Marg became a Block Parent in 1984. She soon joined the Administrative Committee of her Community Program and held several positions, including School Co-ordinator, and eventually became the Chair for 5 years. To quote one of her Committee co-workers: "... (she) was a "dream-come-true" for our Program in so many ways. She was always highly organized, had an outstanding work ethic and went above and beyond in everything she undertook. She has always been a very positive fun-loving person ... highly respected by all her fellow "Block Parent" family." In 2002 she left the local committee and joined the Ontario Board as a Director. Three years later she became the Chair. Under her guidance and leadership, the Ontario Board flourished, producing countless excellent resources, both print and web, streamlining procedures to allow for easier Program



Marg Rooke (l) receiving her award from Teresa Stalis, OBPPAI Acting Chair.

... continued on page 4

OBPPI Conference and Annual General Meeting

This year the Ontario Block Parent® Program Conference was hosted by the Chatham-Kent Block Parent® Program and held at Oak's Inn in Wallaceburg, Ontario. A total of 22 delegates representing 11 Community Block Parent® Programs enjoyed interesting workshops, productive sharing sessions, the wonderful humour of motivational speaker Meg Soper, delicious food and plenty of warm Block Parent camaraderie!



Those who were able to get away Friday arrived to a wonderful spread of wine and cheese. Saturday's breakfast was followed by Meg Soper, a hilarious humourist motivational speaker. Meg left us with a number of practical strategies to use while dealing with the daily challenges we face.



Meg Soper and some inspirational entertainment.

A short break was followed by a workshop about "How to Obtain United Way Funding." There are 117 United Ways across Canada. Next to governments, the United Way movement is the largest funder of the voluntary sector and social services in Canada. They raise millions of dollars each year and re-invest them in local community needs, especially in voluntary, non-profit, human and social service organizations. Some of the benefits of being a funded agency are:

- operational funds
- shared resources
- brand recognition
- training opportunities
- invitations to participate in community events
- greater focus on Program delivery and
- sense of belonging in the community.
- ability to hire staff
- partnerships
- networking opportunities
- public awareness

To find help in your community, go to the United Way of Canada website - www.unitedway.ca - and find your local United Way. Use the contact information to call and ask about receiving United Way funding.



Karen Mingay on the 6C's of the Bees

After a wonderful lunch we were treated to "The Big Buzz on Teamwork: Lessons from the Honey Factory." This was a powerful and dynamic workshop which showed how to achieve more with less and harness the power of effective teamwork. By playing the Big Buzz on Teamwork Board Game, the delegates discovered how to apply the guiding principles of an effective team:

- common goal
- communication
- contribution
- commitment
- collaboration
- confidence



The Annual General Meeting was held after the workshop and then everyone met for a delicious banquet followed by the presentation of the annual Block Parent Awards. This year's winners included:

- Chatham-Kent Police Service
- Administrative Committee of the Kapuskasing Block Parent® Program
- Heather Christie, Oshawa Block Parent® Program Chair
- Ramona Ostrander, Guelph Block Parent® Program Past Chair.



Laurie Melcher presented Kim Lang with a Years of Service Certificate for eight years of volunteering with the CKBPP.

This year's recipient of the Margaret MacGee Award was Marg Rooke (see full story on page 2).

The leisurely hot breakfast on Sunday morning provided ample opportunity for the delegates to network with each other and compare Program notes. More "show and tell" time was given after a short workshop introducing the newest resource available from the Block Parent® Program of Canada. This is a series of concise, informative, self-teaching PowerPoint Presentations which were requested by the delegates present at last year's Ontario Conference. The topics include:

- The Block Parent® Program
- Fundraising
- How to Get Into Schools
- Program Operation
- Recruitment
- Social Media

These are available from BPPCI Director Teresa Stalis. Email requests to teresa@cogeco.ca.



Scotch and Herb Entertainment



Johanna Hopper, Whitby, shows off the watch she won as a door prize.

The Ontario Block Parent® Program's Board of Directors would like to thank the Chatham-Kent Block Parent® Program Host Committee for their dedication to the Program and their tireless efforts to make this year's Conference and AGM an unforgettable experience of fun and educational workshops. We know the delegates took home many inspirational ideas to help rejuvenate their Community Programs and face new challenges while building safer communities block by block throughout the province.



CKBPP host committee: rear (l-r) Jane Labute, Monica Hall, Tanya Nooyen; front (l-r) Mary St. John, Terra Everitt, Ruth Bossence (Chair)

Block Talk



Niagara Falls Lynda Hendry, Chair

Snap Article

The Niagara Falls Optimist Club and Block Parents held a Fingerprint and Photo ID clinic at the MacBain Centre on January 29th. The Optimists joined with Block Parent approximately 18 months ago to help with volunteers and much more. At the clinic, (held every 2 months) each child is photographed and fingerprinted. Parents receive a Child ID Kit that includes all pertinent information along with a wallet-sized ID card.



Other Photo ID Clinics

On Wed. Jan. 26 we did a fingerprint Photo I.D clinic at Orchard Park School. We printed 180 kids and gave out safety information to all.



(l-r) Lynda Hendry, Jodie Bellerose, Principal, Fred Ceccato, Optimist Club and student Damla Erisis receiving the participation plaque.



The participation plaque presentation at Heximer School.



In June we will be attending several safety days and the Lion's Club carnival as well as receiving a special award for our ID Team being presented by the Niagara Falls Optimist Club.



The participation plaque presentation at Notre-Dame-de-la-Jeunesse School.

MacGee Award - continued from page 2 ...

administration, simplifying Program by-laws and policies, and administering funding and marketing initiatives. All of this was accomplished in the enjoyable, co-operative and productive atmosphere of a "dream team". Of course, if anyone complained, they were simply told to "Suck it up, Buttercup!"

Congratulations Marg!

BPPCI Newsletter

The Block Parent® Program of Canada newsletter is available at www.blockparent.ca.

This publication is still unnamed. If you think you have the winning name please send it to the BPPCI Newsletter Editor at teresa@cogeco.ca. The winner will receive a prize and be featured in the newsletter.

Charitable Donations

Since December 2010

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

Corporate Donations

Casco Inc. ★ National Steel Car Ltd.

Individual Donations of \$100 or More

Derek Hopkins ★ Patricia Legate ★ Rita Canough

Community Chairs

Be sure to distribute this newsletter to your Block Parents, Committee members, police liaisons, Safety Village contacts, community sponsors, School Boards, etc.

For an electronic version, or for Program information, downloads, activities, events or links, please visit us at www.blockparent.on.ca

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