

Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario
Association des centres pour aînés de l'Ontario



2007 CONFERENCE UPDATE-The OACAO Conference Committee is hard at work planning this year's Conference to be held October 21, 22 and 23rd at the Holiday Inn in Oakville.

The Program Committee has planned a number of excellent workshops that will respond to the challenges identified in the initial OACAO survey. New this year are poster presentations which highlight the good work that is taking place in Older Adult Centres across the province. They will provide an opportunity for you to share your successes with colleagues, without delivering a workshop presentation. The information will be displayed on poster boards and there will also be hand-outs of flyers, newsletters, etc. If you would like further information or would like to participate in the poster presentation, please contact Sue Hesjedahl at 905- 615-3905.

A Resource Table will also be included in the poster presentation area for those who wish to bring Newsletters, Brochures, etc to share with others. Along with the wonderful workshops, 2 tours are planned of Senior Centres throughout the Golden Horseshoe Re-

gion.

The Social Committee has planned some great events and challenges for us all to have fun with. The Committee is also asking people to bring copies of pictures of their Centres and we will have a photo board in the hospitality suite. (information will be detailed on the registration form)

The Conference Brochure is currently being finalized and we hope it will be on the streets in early August. Fees will be comparable to last year. Full conference Registration is \$425 for members prior to the early bird deadline of September 25 and the room rates at the Holiday Inn are \$109.00 per night. The Trade Show Committee is always looking for new contacts to sponsor part of the conference to have a booth at Monday's Tradeshow.

So mark down October 21, 22 and 23rd - you will not want to miss the event of the year !!!!!

Nancy Beddoe
Conference Chairperson

Information and Active Living Fairs 2007-2008

The Information Fairs have begun a "NEW" year with 22 events happening across Ontario over the next 11 months!

To date, sessions have been held in Oshawa and Toronto, each so different and yet the same! One was held at a conference centre, hosted by six Seniors Groups over two days with over 400 in attendance the first day. The Toronto Fair was held in a Seniors Centre, using many rooms and levels in a two hour session.. The common denominator was the atmosphere and energy!

The warmth presented itself as one entered the facility and being greeted by the smiling faces of the volunteers handing out information. The welcoming energy of the staff making sure things were on schedule and the displays were up and running was great! Everywhere you looked, people were interacting, some in serious discussions, some laughing, and some relaxing with a soothing massage.

I am looking forward to attending as many of these sessions as possible over the next few months and being able to share the story of the OACAO and its

benefits to anyone who will listen.

Our thanks to the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat for making the fairs possible to so many members and seniors within our organization!

Mary Lou Weir
Information and Active Living Fairs 2



Durham Region Seniors Centres 50+ Fair

Message from the Executive Director

Hello to all, I hope you are enjoying the lovely weather we have had as late. It is quite a different change living in our new home in the small, but beautiful village of Inglewood in Caledon. We are a very short distance from the Caledon Trail which is part of the Canada Trail. My wife had walked a portion of the trail during the winter and recently she took me on a walk along the trail with the dog. It was quite wonderful as we smelled the lilacs, saw some unusual birds, checked out the fish in the Credit River and just enjoyed the scenery. Next we get out the bikes for a longer trek.

As for the OACAO, many exciting things have happened over the past 4 months and many new things happening in the near future.

President Ellen Hope and I spent 2 days at the Thunder Bay Information Fair and enjoyed the company of our very friendly and warm representatives from the north. Although Gerry could not attend due to hospitalization, Joan did a terrific job of coordinating the on site responsibilities. It was an excellent couple of days. We even got to see some of the wonderful sites of

Thunder Bay including the Thunder Bay 55+ Centre and the Terry Fox Memorial thanks to our guide, Keith Nymark. We were joined by Al Gordon and Bill Krever on the 2nd day for their presentation on the Trillium Grant, which garnered great interest and enthusiasm. I am pleased to say that as a result of our trip, we have 2 new members in the OACAO. We welcome the Rural 60 Plus Seniors and the Current River Seniors to our organization.

The funding for the Information Fairs for 2007-2008 has been distributed with 22 centres receiving a grant. As well, there are 3 other centres on a waiting list. Unfortunately, the funding requests exceeded the funding available by over \$30,000 so there was some very creative money management to honour all requests, although the funding was reduced to 2nd and 3rd time requests. Mary Lou Weir has now taken over as the Coordinator of the Fairs and is the main contact for any further information.

The OACAO will be meeting with the Seniors' Secretariat later this year to do a full presentation on the results of the 2006-2007 Fairs and to discuss future funding. We extend our sincerest thanks to the staff at the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat

for their support of the Fairs over the past 2 years and look forward to a long relationship on this project.

Recently representatives from the OACAO were asked to meet with representatives from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to discuss the Aging at Home Strategy. We are very grateful to Kathy Durst, a long time supporter of the work of the OACAO, who is the Chairperson for the LHIN in Waterloo-Wellington for arranging and attending the meeting. The OACAO has now created an AD Hoc committee to continue discussion with the MOHLTC on this issue.

Al Gordon and Bill Krever, along with Natalie Coyle are working diligently on the Trillium Project. Al is continuing to visit the regions and centres where possible to do information presentations on the project and Bill and Natalie have started visiting centres with the survey. More to come as the project rolls out. Please check out the Trillium Grant page on the OACAO website for an overview of the project.

Lawrie Bloom,
Executive Director

June is Seniors' Month This year's theme is Active Living: Share Your Experience



OACAO –SWOT

Strengths

- Committed Board of Directors
- Diverse Membership
- Good on-line communication tool-list serve
- Seniors Information Fair
- Advocates for all seniors with provincial govt.
- Collective research and grant opportunities

Weaknesses

- Hard to get together due to geographic nature of centres
- Not all senior centres are included in the membership
- Lack of fiscal stability
- Lack of new vision and initiatives to serve the centres-i.e. joint marketing
- No organized or coordinated strategy in place to positively position senior centres with the LHINS
- Seniors not interested in becoming members-want “a la carte” programs

Opportunities

- Create more manageable regions
- Attract new members/business partners
- Market younger seniors
- Increase profile by acting as a resource for education around aging- perhaps partnering with Gerontological Assoc., being seen as a leader in the field for consultants
- Trillium grant provides “cutting edge” opportunity to address issues of programs for baby boomers

Threats

- Not continue to develop the regional reps so they spread the word about the organization
- Non-profits always in a struggle to do more with less. Doesn't leave energy to work outside our own agencies.
- Have to be able to meet the demands of the boomers- if we don't they will join other Organizations
- Member Agencies do not see value of membership
- Funding stability

Get Ready! Get Set! Nominate!

Nominations are now being accepted for the
2007 OACAO Awards

- **Life Membership Award**
- **OACAO Print Media Award of Merit**
- **OACAO Electronic Media Award of Merit**
- **Award of Merit**
- **Person of Distinction Award**
- **Past President's Award**
- **Community Spirit Award**

The recipients will be presented with their award at the Gala Dinner at the OACAO annual conference in Oakville on Monday, October 22nd!

Help us to recognize the outstanding
organization, business, staff or centre member (s)
who fit the category!

Send in your nominations today,
you will be glad you did!!!!

Information must be sent by September 15th

For more information contact
Mary Lou Weir, Awards Chair
mweir@mountaincable.net



Remembering Fran McHale

Some of you may remember Fran McHale as a vivacious President of the OACAO for the years 1979 and 1980. It was my first year serving on the Executive and I remember her so well for her commitment to seniors and older adult centres. She had a wonderful smile and charming personality, which endeared you to her immediately. However, I do remember that there were times when she could be quite stern, especially during a Board meeting with 25 OACAO volunteers. Fran had a very special relationship with many people from various levels of government, especially a man by the name of Lawrence Crawford, who was creator of the Elderly Persons Centres Act. That relationship certainly helped the OACAO in its early years as the Senior Citizens' Centres Association of Ontario.

Message from the President

I'm pleased to report that we have made significant progress on the Strategic Plan and the "Building Bridges to Tomorrow" project.

For the Strategic Plan, OACAO members were asked to participate in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis early in the year. Responses were summarized, then reviewed and discussed by the Board in February. After the final summary was distributed to members through the List Serve following that meeting, members were invited to participate in the next step – reviewing and revising the Mission Statement, developing a Vision Statement and identifying the organization's values. In May, the Board focused on revision of the Mission Statement and discussion of the vision and values of the organization. Later in the summer, the Board Executive will continue to work on the mission and vision and determine the priorities of the organization in these "changing & challenging" times. A completed Strategic Plan will be presented to the membership for approval at the Annual Meeting in October.

Thanks to Al Gordon, Bill Krever, Lawrie and the members of the Resource Development Committee, we are moving full steam ahead on the "Building Bridges to Tomorrow" project. Al and Bill have already made presentations to several centres including the NW Region Information Fair in Thunder Bay.

In April, Lawrie and I attended the two-day Information Fair in Thunder Bay, organized by NW Region reps Gerry Poling and Joan Clark. The Fair was well attended and offered excellent seminars on health and active living. Participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on the challenges facing their northern groups. As in other centres throughout the province, funding, volunteers and program variety were the main issues.

Enjoy June's Seniors Month activities in your area and have a wonderful and safe summer.

Ellen Hope, President

JUNE IS SENIORS MONTH!!



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