



Ontario Rehabilitation Work & Community (ORWC)



Vision Statement

*Working together to
promote,
develop and implement
services
that are reflective of
integration
and community
interaction.*

Mission Statement

*ORWC is a professional
association representing
organizations
which provide innovative
training to assist
individuals with
significant barriers
to make the transition
to employment and
community-based
alternatives.*

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

*Season's Greetings for 2003 to all of our
Provincial Members from the Board of Directors of
the Ontario Rehabilitation, Work and Community.*

This has been a building year for your Board. New Committees have been developed to work on providing ORWC with a clear and structured format for the functional committees to use within their strategic mandates. The Finance Committee and Policy Committee have both put together new ways of doing business that gives the Board easily understood guidelines and provides the Provincial Coordinator with the ability and tools to do his job of working with the membership in a timely and concrete goal oriented fashion.

For our members, our Regional training day held in Ottawa, featured Ian Armitage, a well known expert in stress reduction techniques. The day was well attended and provided a great venue to look at stress in the workplace and successful ways to combat it with quick fixes and longer term strategies.

Once again, Community Living Kingston provided over 200 of our members with an incredible three-day conference at the Glenn House resort in Gananoque. This was an outstanding event filled to the brim with information on our various fields, as well as providing incredible opportunities for everyone to work together and make new and lasting contacts with other professionals throughout Ontario. It is my pleasure to announce that CLK have agreed to host the 2004 Conference and I am sure will be providing us with a wonderful learning experience and partnership building event.

-continued on page 4

IN THIS EDITION

- Feature Agency —
H'art Studio, Kingston
- 2003 Conference
Report
- 2003 ORWC Innovation
Award Recipient
- Y's Owl McClure
Summer Foundations
Program
- Welcome to New
Liberal Government

OUR MISSION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH:

1. ORWC will provide current and professional training to our members, through annual conferences and timely workshops across the province.
2. ORWC will lobby and advocate for our members as we comment on public policy and promote excellence in service provision.
3. ORWC will promote and support the essential services our membership provides to individuals facing significant barriers to full community participation.
4. ORWC will promote timely communication as a forum for the exchange of ideas and the identification of issues that are relevant to the field of vocational rehabilitation.
5. ORWC will assist member agencies in their pursuit to develop and implement innovative solutions to employment and community-based alternatives.
6. ORWC will continue to support and promote the strong collective experience and expertise of our membership.
7. ORWC will provide a network where national and international practitioners can share and exchange strategies in the research and development of the vocational rehabilitation profession.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR

Welcome to the Fall 2003 edition of Community Forum. We are pleased to feature **H'art studio of Kingston, Ontario** as our "Feature Agency" in this edition. **H'art studio** is the newest member to join ORWC in 2003.

The annual ORWC Conference, held September 17-19, 2003 in Gananoque, was an outstanding success! Congratulations to the Conference Committee from Community Living Kingston and to all those who participated in making the event so successful. Community Living Kingston will be hosting the annual conference in 2004 and is actively researching a site. Once again, our Silent Auction was a hit at the conference and your generosity in contributing items and making bids helped us generate over \$2000 to help offset the costs of the conference. Thank you! Please see the article on Conference 2003 in this edition. On a special note, I would like to extend the sincere appreciation of the membership and Board of Directors of ORWC to **Wade Wright** for his years of service and dedication to ORWC. With Wade's retirement for active duty as a board member, Wade was presented with a plaque at this year's conference. We will miss you, Wade!

The **ORWC Innovation Award** for 2003 was presented to **Central Seven Association for Community Living**. Please see the article and pictures in this edition. I am pleased to congratulate Central Seven for their outstanding service model and for receiving this award.

With the new provincial government now in place, your Board will be making every effort to maintain and enhance our voice and presence in policy development. Watch for upcoming articles and features in the next editions.

Our annual membership drive is underway and each agency has received the 2003/04 membership packages and invoice. Please contact me if you have not received your package.

Community Forum depends on your support. This is your newsletter and I encourage you to submit an article, a training event or an item or service for our **Trading Post**.

Wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Jim Paul
Provincial Coordinator, ORWC

Community Forum's Feature Agency



H'art studio - school of smiles inc.

WHO WE ARE

Since 1998, this non-profit organization has offered innovative programming to nurture literacy, computer literacy, and life skills among those 21+ with developmental challenges by using the fine arts as inspiration and an educational tool. We believe in responsibility, expression, involvement, life-long learning, and meaningful work opportunities.

We offer a day program for over 60 participants weekly. There are three full-time employees. The studio is open from 9:00 to 3:00 Monday to Friday and our program is offered on a semester-basis year round.

Without the benefit of Ministry funding, our curriculum-based programs rely on art sales, fundraising, performance revenue, a small daily fee, and the work of 48 dedicated volunteers to operate. We also engage the public through creative awareness raising initiative while preparing the next generation of health care workers by offering quality field placements to St. Lawrence College and Queen's University in Kingston. The studio has grown through the support of the local community which has embraced the program with enthusiasm and hope.

Participation is open to those with special needs in the Kingston area and they come from as far as Belleville and Smiths Falls. Most h'art participants are referred by co-op programs, local agencies, as well as families, friends, and self-referrals.

We have a volunteer Board of Directors dedicated to the cause of advancing literacy skills and meaningful life-long learning opportunities for those with developmental disabilities which is drawn from a cross-section of the community.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

H'art endeavours to provide participants with a safe, social entrepreneurial atmosphere. Clients are given the opportunity to reinforce and further their skills and foster life-long learning goals while being introduced to volunteerism and social networks in the community through facilitated monthly activities. The fine arts are an excellent tool to support these goals. Through active

participation and exposure on stages, in galleries, and public forums, our clients have the opportunity to represent their own abilities. An example of the success of the stage as a medium for self-advocacy is the recent production of "Aardv'ARK". Participants performed in front of a total of 2,500 people at four sold-out performances.

LITERACY • COMPUTER LITERACY • LIFE SKILLS

The literacy component of the program is incorporated in our unique curriculum and is drawn from research that incorporates Ministry of Community and Social Services, Minister of Education and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities directives that focus on "Quality of Life" and "Planning for Independence" as well as the conceptual framework "Meaningful Living" (Being, Belonging, Becoming) developed by Dr. Ivan Brown of University of Toronto — Health Promotion and his colleagues. Dr. Brown will be presenting the h'art studio model as an example of the application of his concepts in France at the International Intellectual Disabilities Conference this June.

H'art studio incorporates personalized instruction, peer tutoring, and cooperative learning with an integrative holistic curriculum.

With the understanding that self-esteem and memory are challenges when dealing with the literacy issues of people with developmental disabilities, h'art has found that the unique inclusion of the fine arts (art/theatre/music) helps build self esteem and showcases the participant's capabilities. It breaks down barriers to learning. Memory, or the ability to retain information or concepts, is developed in this model by the use of creativity and repetition.

MENTOR PROGRAM

A new addition to h'art studio this year is the Mentor program. The integration of youth who face numerous personal, intellectual and economic challenges with those with developmental disabilities has proved to have positive effects and has been very rewarding. Both populations are helping one another in everyday activities, literacy, and computer literacy development.

-continued on page 4

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Continued

With the change to a Liberal government in Ontario, we are continuing our practice of introducing ourselves to the new ministers and their offices and making sure, as in the past, that ORWC is looked to as a strong voice for Agencies working in the fields of rehabilitation, employment and day support services in Ontario.

We on the Board hope that you, our members and supporters, have a safe and happy Holiday Season and that 2004 is a year of growth and development within each of your Agencies. Thank you for your continued support of the Ontario Rehabilitation, Work and Community.

Yours,
Hugh Nelson
Chair, ORWC

COMMUNITY FORUM'S FEATURE AGENCY

Continued

THE CHALLENGE

Our greatest challenge, as it is for all leaders with an innovative method, is to make the public and field aware of our theory, philosophy and approach to literacy and meaningful work opportunities.

Competitive employment opportunities are rare and often temporary with a high turnover. H'art believes exposure and participation in the community is essential for the long-term. Independent living and volunteerism should be considered priorities along with consistent work in the areas of communication and self-advocacy or literacy.

In an attempt to confront this challenge, h'art studio offers "Sharing the Palette" workshops to familiarize other non-profit organizations with our model.

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Executive Director — Katherine Porter
Manager of Marketing and Promotions — Tracy Ryan

ORWC INNOVATION AWARDS 2003

- Caroline Hunter, ORWC Board of Directors

The ORWC conference this year had many highlights and causes for celebration. One of them was the presentation of the Innovation Award.

This year the award was presented to Central Seven Association for Community Living for their Getting Connected service model and it was very well deserved. Congratulations Central Seven!!!

The most impressive aspects of this model was how it met every criteria outlined in Making Services Work for People and the quality of the tools and templates to measure outcomes as well as the excellent reporting mechanisms. Excellent work Central Seven!!!

It would be a rich addition to the conference next year to have Central Seven present their winning model.

This year the board of directors had several discussions about the award and there was a decision made to enhance the criteria and provide a cash prize. It is the intention of the board to continue to look at ways to enrich the Innovations Award process and find ways to include more categories and opportunities that will encourage more entrants.

There are so many incredible new program designs within the sector and an abundance of creative and innovative thinkers that we feel that more can be done to showcase this aspect of our sector and we are working hard as your representatives to that.

We would like to know what you (the members) think and have your input into the process. Please, in spite of how busy we all are, take a few minutes to think about how the process can be enriched and together we can build this award to have increased currency with funders and foundations and be a genuine asset to the recipients.

Please contact me with your suggestions and thoughts and/or discussion, by phone at 416-340-3729 or e-mail: caroline@core-toronto.ca

Have a happy holiday and very prosperous, creative and healthy new year!!!



2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REVIEW

- Kelly Servage, Community Living Kingston

On September 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2003, an entire year of planning went into implementation. Community Living Kingston, in partnership with Ontario Rehabilitation Work and Community launched the 24th annual ORWC Conference. This is the second year that CLK has participated in the running of the event. Proceeds from the conference are split between the two organizations.

For the second year in a row, this event was held at the beautiful; family owned and operated Glen House Resort in Rockport under sunny skies and warm weather. A perfect combination for this year's beach theme "Catch the Waves of Innovation... Ride with Us!" The conference opened with a few words from key people from both ORWC and Community Living Kingston followed by a lively rendition of "The ORWC Blues" as performed by Ian Armitage and Jim Paul.



Attendee registration boomed this year at over 174 people. Guests received colourful sand pails full of goodies as well as leis to accompany the beach theme.

The entire conference was facilitated by the very funny and musically talented Ian Armitage. Over the course of three days, staff from agencies around the province attended workshops ranging from professional development in communication skills and boosting creativity to workshops on how to access funding, working with youth and seniors and the latest devices in adaptive technology, just to name a few.



Wednesday evening delegates were treated to a beautiful sunset cruise of the 1000 Islands followed by a festive beach party and barbecue steak dinner.

Intermingled with the workshops were team building activities designed to be fun and at the same time provide a medium for

interaction between attendees. Teams were challenged to use their thinking skills and creativity in creating bridges, boats, and talking sticks. During the beach party on Wednesday night, winners of the bridge building were unveiled and the lively boat race competition was won amid loud cheers and team generated gusts of wind. Team prizes were handed out to the winners.



The talking stick exercise was used to make recommendations and provide feedback about the conference. Ian's efforts to bring together a dynamic group of individuals proved to pay off as reflected in feedback from delegates wanting more!



Thursday evening held a semiformal dinner with the annual Innovation Award's ceremony. This year's winner was Central Seven Association for Community Living with their "Getting Connected" program. In addition to peer recognition,

for the first time this year a monetary prize of \$500.00 was presented to the successful nominee. As well, Wade Wright was recognized for his many years of dedication to ORWC and his contribution to the board of directors.

The silent auction proved to be extremely successful this year generating over \$2000.00, the big ticket item this year being a generous donation of a training session from Ian Armitage successfully won by Abbott Agency. Thank you Sandy Abbott and Ian for your generous contributions as well as to the other agencies that donated items and to the successful bidders for their participation in this year's auction.



-continued on page 6

SUMMER FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM AT Y'S OWL MACLURE

This year, for the first time, Y's Owl Maclure ran a summer program. The intent of the program was to provide activities for the young adults in our Foundations programs whose regular options (such as academic activities) went on a summer hiatus. By doing this, we hoped to help them maintain their skills over the summer, to keep them less at risk in the community and to develop social connections and opportunities for them. We used some of our Foundations funding from the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services and were fortunate to receive funding for start up costs from the Ottawa Community Foundation to run this program.

Over the course of the summer, the program served 10 individuals for three days per week utilizing two very energetic staff; one full-time and one part-time. Although the staff had many ideas for activities, participants worked with them to identify other activities they would like to partake in. Every two weeks they received a schedule of activities to look forward to. Activities ranged from relaxed, non-structured days where participants had a picnic or visited one of the staff's homes to play with her dogs to more structured activities such as going go-karting or taking the river boat cruise. Participants had an opportunity to enjoy many new experiences; making frozen yogurt, trying out henna tattoos, having manicures, participation in leadership games and trying out rock climbing.

Overall, the program was extremely popular with the participants and the staff were envied by their co-workers in other programs. At the end of the summer, both the participants and staff were sad to see the program end. We are very happy to report though, that our goal of developing social connections was more than realized, as we see the friendships which developed over the summer continue to flourish and grow. We are all looking forward to providing this opportunity again next year to even more young adults.

*Article submitted by
Suzanne Ford, Y's Owl
Maclure Co-op*



2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REVIEW CONTINUED

The evening continued after dinner and presentations to include the ever popular slide show highlighting the conference activities, a serenade by the board of ORWC and conference committee of Copa Cabana, and the dance.



Fun was had by all during the sun set boat cruise, beach party, dance and silent auction over the course of the three days. Combine with the atmosphere and seeing old friends as well as making new connections, one can

certainly say that this year's conference was a huge success. Thanks to all of those who attended.

* Items that were left behind at the conference can be claimed by calling Kelly Smith at 613-546-6613, ext. 260, within 30 days.



LISTING OF NEW LIBERAL GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

The ORWC Board would like to give a brief welcome to the new Liberal Government in Ontario.

We at ORWC are looking forward to working with Premier Dalton McGuinty, as well as many of his Ministers and their offices to further the development of rehabilitation, employment and day programs for persons with disabilities throughout Ontario.

With our mandate to represent rehabilitation, work and day program agencies across many types of disabilities, we understand that it is never just one Ministry that affects the lives of the people that we provide service to.

In future newsletters we will highlight Ministers who are working directly with the populations that we provide service to, but at this time I would like to introduce the list of new Ministers and their portfolios to our membership.

Dalton McGuinty	Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Sandra Pupatello	Minister of Community and Social Services
Dr. Marie Bountrogianni	Minister of Children's Services, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
Gerard Kennedy	Minister of Education
Chris Bentley	Minister of Labour
George Smitherman	Minister of Health and Long Term Care
Mary Anne Chambers	Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Harinder Takhar	Minister of Transportation
Monte Kwinter	Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Jim Bradley	Minister of Tourism and Recreation
David Ramsay	Minister of Natural Resources
Steve Peters	Minister of Agriculture and Food
Madeleine Meilleur	Minister of Culture, Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs
Jim Watson	Minister of Consumer and Business Services
Greg Sorbara	Minister of Finance
Joe Cordiano	Minister of Economic Development and Trade
John Gerretsen	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister responsible for Seniors
Michael Bryan	Attorney General, Minister responsible for Native Affairs
Gerry Phillips	Chair of the Management Board of the Cabinet
Rick Bartolucci	Minister of Northern Development and Mines
Dwight Duncan	Chair of Cabinet Government House Leader
David Caplan	Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, Deputy House Leader
Leona Dombrowsky	Minister of the Environment

Welcome to you all from the Board of the Ontario Rehabilitation, Work and Community.

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COMMUNITY FORUM “TRADING POST”

Trading Post is a regular feature for our newsletter. Agencies can advertise items, services, equipment, etc., in this column at no charge. Please forward your request to Jim Paul at (fax) 613-284-1280 or at nanwar@falls.igs.net. Include a description of the articles, the price and your contact information. Don't forget, our newsletter is posted on the web, (www.orwc.net), so your sales opportunities are greatly increased.

* ORWC reserves the right to approve all Trading Post listings.

*You set your destiny by what
you make of yourself.
Be an earnest student of
yourself.
Learn by frequent self-
examination to appraise and to
improve your attitudes,
aspirations and habits.*

.....Grenville Kleiser

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