



### 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 AUGUST 2003

Welcome to our summer edition of the Community Forum, ORWC's quarterly newsletter.

The loss of power to our homes and businesses on the August 15th weekend strongly pointed out to us how our lives can change in a brief moment. For the disabled in the work force or relying on Day Programs it is a terrifying experience. I wonder if the general public understands the many problems that were faced by these people over this critical time.

On another point at the Can Am Conference this May in Gananoque, Ontario, I was presented with a paper written by Lawrence L. Barker Jr., who is president and Chief Executive Officer of the New York State Industries for the Disabled Inc. Mr. Barker's paper was submitted at a public hearing on community integration for people with disabilities that was held in Albany, NY in 2001. The reason that the document was so interesting to me was that it identified that New York State has put into place a Preferred Source Program that is aimed at providing employment and opportunity for people with disabilities to develop in the state's work force.

This Preferred Source Program allows people with disabilities to provide a wide variety of commodities and services for State and local agencies at customer locations throughout the State. All of this is being done to meet the ordinary needs of government through the State's procurement process.

Mr. Barker went on to describe how the program works. The NYSID acts on behalf of its 134 member rehabilitation agencies, all of which are not for profit organizations and all of whom provide vocational, and related services to people with disabilities. These may range from a more structured work centre setting which is facility based, and in which consumers may choose to work in the production of commodities for government markets, to agencies where people with disabilities work exclusively outside of the facility at government customer locations in more integrated employment settings.

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### 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 Spring 2003 issue of *Community Forum*. We are please to feature **Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities** as our "Feature Agency" in this edition.

The annual ORWC Conference, scheduled for September 17-19, 2003, in Gananoque, promises to once again be the vent of the year that you will not want to miss. The "Catch the Waves of Innovation...Ride with Us" theme for this year's conference is supported by four workshop "waves" and the sessions will provide you with opportunities to interact and network with your peers and take home some great new ideas! Plus...don't forget to bring your musical instruments, for a good old ORWC jam session!

Don't forget the **Silent Auction!** We have received some great items already and your donations would be very much appreciated. To donate an item, please call or e-mail. The funds from the silent auction help to keep the conference costs at a reasonable level.

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. I am pleased to announce that our newest member to join ORWC is **h'art - school of smiles inc.**, in Kingston, Ontario. Katherine Porter is the Founding Director. We will be including an article on **h'art-school of smiles inc.**, in the next edition of *Community Forum*.

Included in this edition is a copy of a letter that was forwarded to Premier Ernie Eves requesting a commitment to recommendations from your ORWC/ODSP Action Committee in the Throne Speech, and the response from the Minister of Community, Family & Children's Services. Through continued dialogue with government, ORWC continues to provide its members with a voice and presence in policy development.

**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**.

Best wishes for a great summer and fall. See you in September at the Conference.

Jim Paul  
Provincial Coordinator, ORWC



# *Community Forum's Feature Agency*

## *Ottawa Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities*

### **WHO WE ARE**

Founded in 1950, incorporated in 1956, OCAPDD is the largest and longest-serving agency of its kind in Ottawa-Carleton. Originated by a small group of parents determined to see that their children have access to education, today, OCAPDD provides support to over 750 clients in every aspect of life, be it living arrangements, day-to-day tasks or work opportunities.

OCAPDD **Management Team** oversees the operation of residences, day options, and support services for those living either in family settings or independently, including relief for the families by more than 315 full and part-time employees. Our residential programs are open 365 days a year. A Director is on call at all times.

A **volunteer Board of Directors**, many of them parents of persons with developmental disabilities, ensure the continued health of the agency. Board members are also tireless advocates on behalf of all persons with developmental disabilities.

**Volunteers**, a vital element of OCAPDD, contribute hundreds of hours each month in every conceivable activity such as organizing outings, tending gardens, repairs and painting at program locations, to cite a few examples.

OCAPDD's support and services, offered in both official languages, are delivered via three broad program types: residential, day and support services.

**Residential:** Provides care and support in daily living activities and accommodation to more than 100 individuals of all ages. Residential Services is composed of 13 residences and 6 apartments. Six residences are equipped for individuals with high medical needs; one residence provides a weight management program for adults with severe eating disorders; apartment programs offer 24 hour support; and another residence serves individuals with challenging behaviours.

**Day Options:** Provides a variety of work options as well as life skill settings and many opportunities for over 370 people who participate. The tempo at each site varies according to needs and capabilities but the overall objectives remain constant: to develop individual potential as fully as possible; to provide a structure in which to form constructive work habits and to be productive. A strong supported employment program offers over 80 individuals,

the support necessary to be competitively employed in the community.

**Support Services:** For those living in a family setting or living independently, six programs provide support that foster self-confidence and encourage integration into the community, including respite and specialized transportation.

Community Support Services ensure that over 90 individuals have the ongoing counsel of a skilled professional to support their everyday efforts. Family Home can be likened to a foster family, with support built-in, for both the 40 persons currently being served and for their families.

In Home is tailored to each individual and family's need for respite, community access, recreational and life skills development.

Senior's Brokerage helps our seniors (currently numbering 15) integrate into community activities during retirement, while also advocating for their rights.

Respite consists of two programs offering a rest period away from home to families caring for a person with a developmental disability in their own home. The respite homes offer support to children and adults and can accommodate emergency and special request respite needs.

### **THE CHALLENGE**

As government continues to cut funding and the demand for service increases, OCAPDD faces an ongoing challenge and must be more creative than ever to maintain the quality of its supports and services. Important needs like the maintenance of facilities, and accessing specialized vehicles and equipment for programs are the focus of OCAPDD's fund raising efforts.

It is clear that our community has a key role, in partnership with OCAPDD, to safeguard the future of our most vulnerable citizens.

David Ferguson  
Executive Director, OCAPDD

880 Wellington Street, Suite 200  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6K7  
(613) 569-8893

**CHAIRPERSON'S  
REPORT AUGUST 2003***Continued*

The current preferred source legislation now provides a more level playing field that allows NYSID and its member agencies the opportunity to compete for state and local government contracts, without the necessity of establishing quotas, appropriating funds, or other mechanisms to achieve the long recognized and valued goal of employing people with disabilities. The real value of the preferred source program, and the purpose for which it was legislatively intended, Mr. Barker states, is to help people with disabilities to begin the journey to independence. He goes on to show that through this program, there have been significant gains for people with disabilities.

While operating within a regulated environment which has oversight from both the social services and government contracting agencies, NYSID and its member agencies have been able to steadily increase employment of disabled New Yorkers through this program. During the past year, three and a half million hours of work were performed by more than 6,800 people with disabilities under preferred source contracts, and they earned over \$25 million in wages. These employment figures are twice what they were three years ago, representing significant growth in community-based contract employment opportunities.

The Preferred Source Program is now seen as an excellent model to positively impact peoples lives. Furthermore, the program has emerged as a valuable step on the rehabilitation, vocational training, and community integration ladder, because it offers people the opportunity for learning and increasing job and social skills, achieving financial independence, and growing toward personal independence, with supports provided every step of the way. Most importantly, this program offers people a choice—a choice of jobs, a choice of skills to pursue, and a choice of levels of independence.

I am wondering why in the United States, New York State to be specific, can develop such pro active legislation to assist the disabled population and yet Ontario lags so far behind. This type of legislation would go a long way to ensure the development of jobs throughout the province where private employers are not readily available and people with disabilities can not gain the job experience and stability of a career. I wonder if there is a champion of this cause out there in our own Provincial Government?

Yours,  
Hugh Nelson  
Chair ORWC

***Glen House Resort Hosts  
the Can Am Conference***

During the week of May 14-15, 2003 employees of agencies support individuals with developmental disabilities from the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario communities came together at the beautiful Glen House Resort. This conference provided opportunity for groups from both sides of the border to tell more about their services while developing networks and friendships that could open the door for future endeavours.

The Can Am conference is an annual event that is rotated between New York State and Ontario venues. Past conferences have been held in Lake Placid, Watertown, Kingston and Belleville. The conference is one of the events that are offered through the "1 World Foundation". This year, in addition to the ORWC members who attend, three Board members attended representing ORWC.

The 1 World Foundation is an international non-profit charitable organization administered by a board of directors. The board is represented by volunteer members from New York, USA and Ontario, Canada. Members share a common dedication to better lives for people with developmental disabilities. Their mission is to improve service for individuals with developmental disabilities across borders. The 1 World Foundation plans to achieve its goals by providing education and training and to strengthen expertise exchanges and individual mentoring. The Can Am Conference is providing an opportunity for both. The Foundation encourages and promotes international research and best practices, the exchange of professional and material resources and development of university partnerships.

1 World works with less developed countries in their efforts to support individuals with developmental disabilities. Events such as the "Rock & Roll Oldies Show" are a hit each year. The show, which takes place in Alex Bay on September 26, 2003, will feature "The Platters". Throughout the year, tickets have been sold to a Nascar event that includes admission, accommodations and spending money.

For more information on 1 World, the Rock & Roll Show or future Can Am Conferences, please contact any of the member agencies including, Pathways to Independence — Belleville, Ongwanada — Kingston or Developmental Services of Leeds and Grenville — Brockville.

- Article submitted by Lorrie Heffernan  
Pathways to Independence, Belleville, ON

## *Mid-Eastern Chapter of ORWC 2003 Bursary Award Winner*

*-Article submitted by Candice Bridgman  
Mid Eastern Chapter*

*It's that time of year when the Mid-Eastern Chapter awards its Annual Bursary. This year there was one bursary given to a student pursuing a career in Social Services. We are pleased to announce this year's recipient, Miss Nicola Wager. Nicola completed a successful first year in the Developmental Services Worker Program at Loyalist College and provided the following submission.*

### **CONGRATULATIONS NICOLA!**

Education in the field of Developmental Service is important for a number of reasons. Just a few of these reasons include being fully knowledgeable, not only about the best practices possible, but also about people with disabilities history as a people.

Whether I end up working in a group home, a work placement or even within the Board of Education, it is important to constantly be aware of what the best practices possible are. This is important not only in terms of what you should do in any given situation, but also in terms of attitude. Although terms such as empathy, empowerment and personal outcomes have become slightly cliched, they represent ideas involving a shift in attitude towards the people that you are supporting. I also feel it is important to learn about what I believe we are trying to achieve, inclusion. All of these con-

cepts involve values that, unfortunately, are not necessarily present in our general community. Therefore, in order to fully support people with disabilities, we need to make sure that we get a sound understanding of it elsewhere, I believe that the DSW program is a good place to start.

Education is also important in order to understand the history of people with disabilities as a legitimate minority. Just like any other minority, people with disabilities have a history that includes many horror stories, but also many triumphs. It is important for us to know this for two reasons. First, knowing a person's past can sometimes help explain parts of why they are who they are today-it helps us to feel empathy. Secondly, looking back on a people's history can show us how far we have come, creating hope for the future.

In the field of Developmental Services, I will be working with very vulnerable people, and in order to serve them to the best my ability I feel that it is very important for me to learn about the best practices possible, especially when it comes to my attitude towards people with disabilities. I also feel that it is important that I learn about the history of people with disabilities, in order to be the best DSW possible, and that is why I have chosen to further my education in this field.

### **THE SECRET TO CONFIDENCE IS PREPARATION**

*“With practice you’ll come to a point of competence. You’ll find yourself accomplishing your goals gracefully and confidently. It’s then that you’ll do things that you never dreamed you could do. You’ll discover powers you never knew existed. If you’re prepared, you’re able to feel confident. There can be no great courage when there is no confidence or assurance. Half the battle is in the conviction that you can accomplish what you undertake. Confidence doesn’t come out of nowhere. It’s the result of constant work and dedication.”*

## Letter to the Premier

*The following letter to Premier Eves was sent prior to the Throne Speech. Premier Eves has responded and has advised that The Honourable Brenda Elliot will be responding to our requests. The Minister's response is included in this edition.*



**Ontario Rehabilitation, Work & Community**  
57 Maple Avenue North  
Smiths Falls, Ontario K7A 2A6  
613-284-1280

April 25, 2003

Premier Ernie Eves  
Office of the Premier  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Eves:

For over 30 years Ontario Rehabilitation Work and Community (ORWC) has represented Ontario not-for-profit organizations which provide vocational and other support services to people with disabilities.

We make the following recommendations for your government implement as vital to the quality of life of persons with disabilities. We ask your government to make a commitment to these actions in the Throne Speech next week.

### **ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM - EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS**

This recently restructured approach to employment services has had considerable success in some areas of the province.

**Recommendation:** Maintain the generous eligibility where it is being practiced, and assure that it is applied uniformly in all regional offices of the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services.

### **ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM - INCOME SUPPORTS**

**Recommendation:** Simplify the application process to make it efficient and fair. Assure that adjudicators offer appropriate assistance to those who need it to make their application.

**Recommendation:** Increase the benefit amount. People with disabilities commonly do not have any other significant sources of income, therefore, they can achieve only minimal quality of life with the current level of Income Support. This level has fallen markedly in real value, since it has not been adjusted for inflation since 1993. Disadvantaged citizens of Ontario deserve to have a fairer share in our province's wealth.

**Recommendation:** Increase the amount of earnings a person may have without deduction from their Income Support payments. The present exemption is unreasonably low, and discourages disabled persons from trying to better their life through their own efforts.

### **OTHER FUNDED SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Recommendation:** Provide equitable funding for work-oriented programs serving any disability group

*-continued on next page.*

## COMMUNITY FORUM

Ontario Rehabilitation, Work & Community (ORWC)

Many disabled persons who cannot achieve employment have a desire to work, and attain the self-respect that comes from being productive. ORWC's member organizations offer such programs, funded by the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services as Sheltered Workshops, Rehabilitation Services to the Disabled, and Day Programs. These services need adequate funding, equally available for whatever the nature of the disability in the population served. At present organizations which do not fall within Developmental Services Act funding have been denied the small increases of subsidy that have been made by the Ministry.

ORWC looks forward to your government's commitment in the Throne Speech to enhance the lives of disabled persons, in the ways recommended above. Such improvements would reflect well on the Government.

Sincerely,

James R. Paul  
Provincial Co-ordinator, ORWC  
/nw

Signed on behalf of ORWC ODSP Action Committee Members

Paul Sayer  
Chairperson, ODSP Action Committee

Suzanne Ford  
Committee Member

Hugh Nelson  
Provincial Chairperson, ORWC

cc: Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Brenda Elliott, Minister of Community, Family and Children's Services  
Elizabeth Witmer, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education  
Sandra Pupatello, Liberal Critic, Ministry of Health  
Gerard Kennedy, Liberal Critic, Education  
Leona Dombrowsky, Liberal Critic, Community, Family and Children's Services  
Shelley Martel, NDP, Critic, Ministry of Health  
Rosario Marchese, NDP, Critic, Education  
Tony Martin, NDP Critic, Community, Family and Children's Services

### ~ LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT ~

*"You have the power to succeed. The day you take complete responsibility for yourself, the day you stop making any excuses, that's the day you start moving to your goal. Nobody is going to do it for you. Only you can make it happen. You're the only one that has to live your life. Success on any major scale requires you to accept responsibility. Begin to choose the thoughts and actions that will lead you to success. Nothing will happen by itself. It will all come your way once you understand that you have to make it come your way. Next year can be so much better if you begin to act upon your dreams. The power to fulfill them all is within you."*

## *Response from the Ministry of Community, Family & Children's Services*

*The following letter is a response from the Government of Ontario to our letter to the Premier prior to the Throne Speech.*

August 25, 2003

Mr. James R. Paul  
Provincial Co-ordinator  
Ontario Rehabilitation, Work and Community  
57 Maple Avenue North  
Smiths Falls, Ontario K7A 2A6

Dear Mr. Paul:

Thank you for your letter concerning recommendations to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities. Premier Ernie Eves also forwarded your concerns for my consideration.

This government is committed to improving the public's access to services for people with disabilities by streamlining service delivery to minimize duplication, reducing client waiting times and enhancing customer service.

This government has listened to people with disabilities and their advocates. We are making changes to ODSP. We recognize that some Ontarians need help to cope with a disability and often have special needs that make it difficult for them to work. On April 30, 2003, in the Speech from the Throne, we announced our commitment to increase ODSP payments to better help people with disabilities lead happier, more productive and dignified lives. More details will come, as they are available.

As you may know, this government created a unique program of income and employment supports for Ontarians with disabilities, separate from the welfare system. ODSP is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of people with disabilities and provide them with greater opportunities for independence.

In designing ODSP, we listened to what Ontarians with disabilities and their advocates had to say. For this reason, ODSP recognizes that people with disabilities can and do want to work. People with disabilities are no longer labelled permanently unemployable under ODSP, as they were under the former Family Benefits (FBA) program.

We have already changed the system and made significant improvements over the former FBA. I would like to highlight some of these improvements:

- Under FBA, the asset ceiling was \$3,000 for singles; \$5,500 for a couple and \$500 for each dependant other than a spouse. Under ODSP, the asset ceiling has been raised to \$5,000 for singles, \$7,500 for a couple and \$500 for each dependant other than a spouse:
- Under ODSP, compensation awards for pain and suffering, inheritances held in trust and the cash surrender value of life insurance policies are exempt as assets up to \$100,000. Prior to ODSP, compensation awards were limited to a maximum of \$25,000; inheritances were limited to \$65,000; and the cash surrender value of life insurance policies had to be within the recipient's asset limit under FBA (i.e., \$3,000 for a single person); and,
- ODSP also provides incentives for families and friends to participate in providing additional support. For example, recipients are allowed to keep an amount of up to \$4,000 per year in the form of gifts for any purpose from any source.

Income support for single people with disabilities under ODSP remains the highest among the provinces and was protected when recipients were transferred from FBA to ODSP on June 1, 1998.

In our goal to improve the lives of people with disabilities, this government also passed the first act for Ontarians with disabilities. The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 demonstrates our commitment to improved independence

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## COMMUNITY FORUM

Ontario Rehabilitation, Work & Community (ORWC)

and opportunity for people with disabilities. With this new Act, we are reaffirming a strong commitment to a province that includes all Ontarians.

In addition, this ministry has made improvements to the ODSP application process, specifically the Disability Determination Package. I am pleased to advise you that the Health Status Report and the Activities of Daily Living Index have been revised and combined into a single form. The revisions were made with extensive input from the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). The changes make the forms clearer and easier for medical professionals to understand. The new forms will give the ministry better and more comprehensive information to support the disability determination process. The new forms were introduced in January 2003. Ministry staff are working with OMA to provide information about ODSP and the new forms to physicians throughout the province.

The self-report form has been revised to capture information such as age, education and work history. This information will assist the ministry to consider an individual in the context of his/her own circumstances when assessing the impact of the disability on activities of daily living. The changes will make it easier for applicants to provide important information that will help the ministry to make decisions regarding their disability status. The new self-report form was introduced in June 2003.

With respect to your concern about the treatment of earned income, the ministry's Supports to Employment Program (STEP) provides a financial incentive to encourage people to work by allowing them to keep more of their social assistance when they have employment income. The amount of net employment income that a family can keep without deduction was increased from \$185 under the Family Benefits (FBA) program to \$235 per month. A single person can keep \$160 per month before deduction. Beyond these basic exemptions, ODSP recipients are allowed to keep 25 percent of their net income. In addition, a maximum of \$140 per month can be deducted for approved disability-related work expenses. As a result of STEP, ODSP recipients are always better off financially for every dollar earned than if they rely on ODSP income support alone.

With respect to your comments about the generous eligibility of the Employment Supports program, we appreciate your positive feedback and will endeavour to ensure that this approach is applied consistently across the province.

This government believes that we should encourage people with disabilities to become independent through employment. However, we know that sometimes employment does not work out. For this reason, we introduced a rapid reinstatement provision when we implemented ODSP. Under this provision, people who leave the ODSP because their earnings exceed their income support may be eligible for rapid reinstatement, if their job does not work out. People who are eligible for rapid reinstatement only need to qualify financially and do not have to go through the medical adjudication process.

This government has taken significant steps to ensure that people with disabilities who want to work have the opportunity to do so and receive the supports they need. The employment supports component of ODSP provides a range of goods and services to assist people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain or maintain employment. These services include employment planning and preparation, skills training, technical aids, human supports such as interpreters and job coaches and help finding a job. Changes have been made to ODSP Employment Supports to ensure that individuals who require longer-term supports to attain their employment goals will be supported within the program by extending service time limits, adding additional supports for people who want to be self-employed and providing ongoing job maintenance supports to help people continue working.

In response to your final recommendation, the ministry is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities who are unable to pursue competitive employment will continue to have access to meaningful non-employment alternatives.

I appreciate the time you have taken to share your concerns. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Brenda Elliot  
Minister

cc: Premier Ernie Eves

## ***President-Elect Makes History at Community Living Campbellford/Brighton!***

On June 26, 2003, Community Living Campbellford/Brighton's annual general meeting was alive with excitement and anticipation.

The anticipation quickly turned into pride and admiration when Jason Rae, a Community Living Campbellford/Brighton Self-Advocate was elected to the position of President of the Board of Directors!

After being voted in and accepting this new prestigious role, Jason thanked the membership by explaining that the support and guidance his family, friends and coworkers have shown him is completely overwhelming and is what has helped him to achieve this personal goal.

Jason describes himself as a Self Advocate and person who has always looked out for the best interests of the organization and all of its members and promises to do his very best to fill the shoes of the past President Chris Park.

Jason is very deserving of this new responsibility and has worked hard to get to where he is today. His roles on the association's Rights Commission and Self-Advocate Committee have provided both groups with invaluable information and unique perspective. His term as Board Vice President has also offered the association his warmth, sense of humor and genuine commitment to providing the best possible supports and services for people with an intellectual disability.

We believe Jason Rae is the first Self-Advocate in the history of the Community Living Federation to achieve this status. As Community Living Ontario celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, we also believe this precedent is long over due. Jason will have a tremendous impact on our Quality Revolution and will open the doors for many of his peers to experience a better quality of life.

Congratulations to Jason Rae upon his truly remarkable accomplishment!

*- Kelly Countryman  
Community Living Campbellford/Brighton  
(705) 653-1821 ext#27*



Chris Park (left) and Dave Barber congratulate Jason Rae.

## ***Update Report From Your 2003 Conference Committee***

With less than two months left to go, ORWC conference committee from Community Living Kingston is burning the midnight oil, putting into place the planning of an entire year for this year's "Catch the Waves of Innovation...Ride with Us" conference theme.

This year's conference is guaranteed to be better than ever with our witty host Ian Armitage, stealing centre stage and bringing all of us together for fun (but competitive) team building activities. By the way...did we mention the HUGE prizes?

Recreational highlights of this year's conference include the sun set boat cruise of the 1000 Islands, and the beach party and barbecue on Wednesday night. On Thursday evening will be the formal dinner and dance featuring the Silent Auction and Innovation Awards.

On the professional development end of the event we are featuring 14 new sessions this year. \*\*Please note one change, the session being presented by Patti Lyn Cheesman on behalf of Durham Region Employment Network has been changed to Building Businesses — Building Quality of Life presented by John Korycki from Integration Timmins.

This year's Innovation Award is slightly different with a single organization selected to receive the \$500.00 cash award and peer recognition. So send in your nominations to Caroline Hunter and the selection committee. Don't forget to give Jim Paul, our Provincial Coordinator, a call and let him know how you can contribute to this year's Silent Auction.

Spaces are filling up quickly with only a limited number available, so hurry and send in your registration and get first crack at the fine accommodations offered by The Glen House Resort, and an invaluable opportunity to network and learn with your peers from around the province.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

*- Kelly Servage*

## ***ORWC Innovation Awards 2003***

The theme for this year's conference "Catching the Waves of Innovation", provides the forum for you to share your ideas, successes and best practices with others, in the unique environment provided by the Glen House Resort.

In keeping with our theme and demonstrating ORWC's ongoing commitment to recognizing "new and innovative ways of doing business; the creation of new opportunities for the integration of services and supports in the community; and the development of partnerships which promote inclusion and opportunities for individuals in the community", the 2003 ORWC Innovations Awards will be a feature event at this year's conference.

For further information on the 2003 Innovation Awards check out the Innovation Award section on the [www.orwc.net](http://www.orwc.net) web page or contact any Board Member.

## ***"Jest for the Stress of It"***

The Eastern Ontario Association of Rehabilitation Services and ORWC sponsored a Members Day/ Professional Development Workshop in May 2003 in Ottawa. The keynote speaker was Mr. Ian Armitage (also the facilitator at this year's annual conference).

The session was well attended and the group came away with ideas and strategies on how to use humour in managing stress.

Your ORWC Board welcomes your suggestions for future Member's Day Workshops. Please forward your ideas to any board member.



## ***Travelling this summer? Find out more about the Disability Travel Card™***

Easter Seals /March of Dimes National Council is proud to celebrate its 26th year of making travel more accessible to Canadians with physical disabilities.

**THE DISABILITY TRAVEL CARD™** provides identification to a person with a permanent disability allowing an accompanying adult attendant to travel at no cost. For more information or to obtain an application, contact your provincial licensed partner.

### **Granting of a Disability Travel Card™**

The Disability Travel Card™ provides identification to a person with a permanent disability, which will allow an adult attendant, travelling with the person with a permanent disability, to travel at no cost.

Reduced fares will be granted to a person with a permanent disability, unable to travel alone, (regardless of age) and accompanied by an adult attendant, if such person with a permanent disability has received authorization from Easter Seals/March of Dimes National Council or one of its designated affiliated members.

### **Condition of Sale**

- a) The person with a permanent disability and the adult attendant must travel together for the entire trip.
- b) The adult attendant must be capable of assisting the person with the permanent disability.
- c) The person with a disability will make application to the Easter Seals/ March of Dimes National Council or its designated affiliates by having completed the Application for Eligibility form. Upon approval of the Application of Eligibility by the Easter Seals/March of Dimes National Council or one of its designated affiliates an identification card will be issued authorizing the reduced fare.

NOTE: Authorized party fare tickets will be based on Regular Fares and are not applicable on any excursion fares, unlimited travel tickets, clergy, blind or escort or other reduced fares, or to or through the United States.

**EASTER SEALS/MARCH OF DIMES NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
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## ORWC Board of Directors

*Provincial Co-ordinator:*

**Jim Paul**

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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.

### FOR SALE

2 Sewing Machines  
2 Union Specials Mark 4  
1/2 HP Motor, 3 stitch overlock  
Best offer.

Call: Roger Branscombe at  
Pathways Employment &  
Training Centre  
(613) 476-1850

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