

TRAAC NEWS

November 2005

Up Coming Events

Enhancing Self Nourishment in Dementia Care

"The Social Meals Program"
November 15th, 2005
Surrey, BC

Quebec Association of Activity Professionals Conference

"R&R: Revitalize to Recreate"
November 18th, 2005

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children: A Visual Impairment Program Telehealth Presentation

"Children with Visual Impairment - Recreation Matters"
November 24th, 2005
Vancouver, BC

ATRA 2006 Mid-Year Professional Issues Forum

"Connecting Recreational Therapy Professionals"
March 17th - 20th, 2006
Plano, Texas

10th Annual CTRA Conference

"Building Bridges: Connecting the Profession"
Halifax, NS
May 4th - 6th, 2006

TRO Conference Niagra

"The Re-Enchantment of TR: Savour Your Roots"
Niagra, ON
May 31st, June 1st - 2nd, 2006

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“Building Bridges: Connecting the Profession”

The 10th Annual Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association (CTRA) conference being held at the Westin Hotel between May 4th-6th, 2006 seems like a long way away. The leaves are falling from the trees and coats,



boots, hats, scarves and mittens will soon be dug out of the back of the closet and dusted off for winter ahead. For the 2006 CTRA conference committee, these next seven months will be a time for planning, problem-solving, coordinating, debating, scurrying (minimally!), laughing, and growing. Strengthening the relationship with the members of NSRPH through co-hosting the CTRA conference is an opportunity to build on the collaborative success between NSRPH and TRAAC demonstrated through the work of the joint standards committee and the achievement of ‘Standards of Practice for Recreation as a Therapy’ that is in it’s final draft. The leadership and quality of work obtained through that project sets a standard of mutual respect and understanding and swings open the door for continuing to work together toward shared goals.

For the 2006 conference committee Spring was a time of developing relationships with each other, and forming a group who would be working closely

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Message From the President

Connecting

Webster’s Online states; **to connect** is to place in or establish a relationship. Since our last newsletter I feel I have spent my time in this role of President in connecting.

The board connected in October with the board of N.S.R.P.H. for a significant education session on the Standard of Practice document that was prepared by members of both organizations to set the bar for the future of Recreation Therapy practice in Nova Scotia. That session brought a significant relationship growth to both organizations. I was so proud to be a part of that experience and to be informed of what had been so tirelessly prepared over the last 18 months by representatives Rhonda Booth, Gary Comeau, Andrea Waters, Bev Short and Beth House.

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“Building Bridges: Connecting the Profession”, cont’d

together for the next 12 months. Summer was a time of sorting out working groups, developing timelines and reinforcing our shared vision. Fall has been a time of developing a culture of mutual support and being solution focused, recognizing that in the middle of all of the planning that life happens. As we head into winter, we potentially head into the ‘stormiest’ season with bad weather, deadlines, and debate. I believe that the stormy season will test our commitment to each other, and our shared vision, but will result in great laughter, and further strengthening of the partnership. Spring will be a time for celebrating our achievements and when the flowers blossom and the birds start singing the 2006 conference committee, and the members of each organization, will know that every moment spent working on ‘Building Bridges: Connecting the Profession’ was worth it every step of the way!

Submitted by Jodie Charters, CTRS

Message from the President, cont’d

As president I attended NLTRA in Gander, Newfoundland and connected with old friends and made new ones as I participated in their provincial conference.

Board Secretary Rhonda Booth and President Elect Dawn MacDonald connected with Dalhousie University TR students in a panel discussion on professionalism in Recreation Therapy and the importance of being involved in your professional organization.

In my workplace over the last few months I had the opportunity to tour the Minister of Health through the Camp Hill Veteran’s Recreation Therapy area in hopes that he would connect the importance of recreation therapy to each individual who lives in a nursing home for their overall health and wellbeing for state of mind and reaching each person potential.

We all will be connected the first week of February as we celebrate National Recreation Therapy Week. Capital Health will be making a combined effort to bring C.T.R.A.’s national message of Building Bridges to Connect the Profession. Interested in sharing the message provincially please contact myself or Resource Chair Shelly Sheehan

We will connect nationally in May at the CTRA National Conference, as public relations co-chair I am talking up the profession and soliciting for donations to have connections to great giveaways. If you know of anyone who wants an exhibitors table at the conference please let me know as soon as possible.

Connecting to the TRAAC membership is essential to our board. Please contact me via email and I will return your email as soon as I can. As I may not have all the answers I may connect you to the board members who have the most complete information on the subject. Thanks to the board for their work daily as I continue to honor the opportunity to lead this organization.

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.

-JOHN MUIR

Submitted by Rhonda MacLean, CTRS

TRAAC Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report

The advocacy committee continues to place its efforts in the development of brochures focusing on why agencies should hire a CTRS and a brochure that promotes the organization TRAAC. These are scheduled to be completed by mid November and presented to the board at that time. Members of the advocacy team have also completed the draft Standards of Practice which are currently under review by a selected committee and NSRPH and TRAAC boards. The legislation sub-committee continues to gather information concerning licensure and will continue to look to the membership for support in the acquisition of materials that will help in defining risk of harm.

As we strive towards licensure, we wish to honor the uniqueness and diversity within the profession. We would like to hear from you! What makes Therapeutic Recreation unique in comparison to other health professions? You may email your responses to Alex Chandler at windsurfal@hotmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this and any other topics.

Submitted by Crystal Watson, CTRS and Alex Chandler, CTRS

NCTRC NEEDS YOUR EXPERTISE!!!

NCTRC to Conduct New Job Analysis Study

NCTRC is in need of 40 volunteer Subject Matter Experts (SME) for the upcoming 2006 Job Analysis Study. In order to complete the JA Study in a timely manner, four (4) distinct committees of Subject Matter Experts (SME) have been identified. The specific committees are described as follows:

1. SME Interview Committee (10): serve as a reviewer of existing information pertaining to the scope and practice of therapeutic recreation. Committee members will be interviewed by JA staff to determine the level of support for current job roles and practices in TR. The purpose of the interview is to potentially revise the preliminary list of task and knowledge areas for therapeutic recreation practice. (March 2006)
2. JA Task Force Committee (12-15): serve as SME to review and revise the list of tasks and knowledge areas for competent practice in TR. The JA Task Force Committee will also participate in the review of the JA survey instrument. This committee will participate in a meeting in Princeton, NJ in May of 2006. (All expenses paid by NCTRC).
3. JA Pilot Survey Committee (10): serve as a reviewer of the pilot JA survey. A copy of the survey will be mailed to each committee member for the purpose of ensuring that the instrument is clear, easy to follow, and reflective of TR practice. (June 2006)
4. JA Test Specification Committee (5-7): serve as a member of the committee that will review the results of the JA survey and convert findings into the test specifications for the NCTRC Exam. This process will involve a two-day meeting To be held in Princeton, NJ. (All expenses paid by NCTRC). (Nov. 2006)

Minimum criterion would include active CTRS status and at least 3 years of practical experience in TR.

To Apply: Send letter and recent copy of your resume to:

NCTRC, 7 Elmwood Drive, New City, NY 10956

Questions: Please contact NCTRC at 845-639-1439 or e-mail nctrc@nctrc.org

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TRAAC

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Therapeutic Recreation Association of Atlantic Canada

Mission: The Therapeutic recreation Association Of Atlantic Canada promotes excellence in Therapeutic Recreation through advocacy, resource development and continuing education

Vision: Therapeutic Recreation is an essential service for health and wellness.

Goals:

1. **Advocacy:** To advocate on behalf of the membership for the Therapeutic recreation profession, practitioners and students.
2. **Resource Development:** To respond to the needs of the membership and the profession through the development and dissemination of resources.
3. **Continuing Education:** To support and enhance continuing education opportunities on behalf of the membership.

MEET THE BOARD

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