



TRAAC NEWS

August 2007

Volume 5, Number 1

Keep in touch!

We would like to hear from you.

Send us stories about what you are doing in your workplaces and new initiatives in which you are involved.

Celebrate your accomplishments in the newsletter.

E-mail:
secretary@traac.ca

We're on the Web!
www.traac.ca

What's New?

Why the Board Members of course! Here are the Board Members for the upcoming year:

- Crystal Watson, President – cwatson@dal.ca
- Andrea Waters, Vice President – andrea.waters@iwk.nshealth.ca
- Heather Baker, Treasurer – BakerHF@cdha.nshealth.ca
- Sue Keleher, Secretary – sue.keleher@cdha.nshealth.ca
- Diana Bennett, Director – diana.bennett@cdha.nshealth.ca
- Bob Baird, Director – robert.baird@cdha.nshealth.ca
- Noreen Guptill, Director – noreen_guptill@hotmail.com
- Bernadine Matthews, Director – bernadine.matthews@cdha.nshealth.ca
- Cheryl MacKinnon, Director – cheryl.mackinnon@cdha.nshealth.ca
- Lynette Stevens, Director - lynette_stevens@hotmail.com
- Amy Walls, Director – amy_walls998@hotmail.com
- Amanda MacInnis, Director – amacinnis@shannex.com
- Michelle Dooley, Director – knhirec@nb.aibn.com
- Jacqueline Cook, Student Director – jcook@gemhealth.com
- Chris Rafuse, Student Director – chris.rafuse@ns.sympatico.ca

Feel free to send us a message. We'd love to hear from you!

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

The results from our survey are in! We now know what we value as a group of professionals. Let's move forward together to accomplish these priorities.

Thank you for your participation!

JOIN A COMMITTEE!!!

Email us at: membership@traac.ca

THIS JUST IN...

TRAAC MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

Strategic Priorities

Licensure	75.0% Very important	25.0% Important
Best Practices / Trends	71.9% Very Important	28.1% Important
Website	71.0% Very Important	25.8% Important
Political Awareness	54.8% Very Important	38.7% Important
Networking Sessions	51.6% Very Important	45.2% Important
Professional Promotional Package	41.9% Very Important	41.9% Important
Member Recognition	29.0% Very Important	51.6% Important
Newsletter	16.7% Very Important	60.0% Important

Who Responded?

Student	17.9%
Supporting	3.6%
Professional	78.6%
Other	7.1%

79.3% of respondents wanted the newsletter electronically so here it is!!!

ON THE RIGHT TRAAC!

The members have spoken...As a result of the recent membership survey, Marketing, Education, and Licensure committees will be developed. We are looking for members interested in helping the profession move forward by joining these committees. The committees encompass (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Marketing Committee--

- Newsletter
- Website
- Promotional Package

2. Education Committee-

- Networking
- Professional Development
- Students

3. Licensure Committee-

- Political Savvy
- Licensure
- Insurance

"Celebrating Diversity in TR Practice"

Our very own Crystal Watson and Lora Harvey attended the 2007 Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association conference June 14th - 16th, 2007 in Regina. This is what they had to say...

Stronger Together!

During the weekend of June 14-16 we attended the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association (CTRA) annual conference held in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Key Note speaker was Bryan McCormick, past president of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA). His presentation was titled "The Role of Professional Associations in a Diverse World".

Dr. McCormick gave an informative and thought provoking talk. He challenged us all to take an active part in helping to keep our profession moving forward and now we are extending that challenge to each of you.

Dr. McCormick acknowledges that many national associations face challenges that are almost identical to regional/provincial associations. For example recruitment, addressing each members unique needs, having active membership, and perhaps the biggest challenge of all helping members see that they ARE the association and that the association is not an entity on to itself.

"If you have done nothing to advance the association, why should the association come to your aid" (Bryan McCormick, CTRA 2007).

Take a second and reflect on that statement. It does sound harsh at first but please read it again. There is a level of reciprocity in our membership, or citizenship as called by Dr. McCormick that is required of us. TRAAC is not just the Board, TRAAC is you the student or the professional that wants recognition for the work you do, respect from other professionals, access to skill enhancing education, and networking opportunities with other TR professionals for support and encouragement. TRAAC was created by TR professionals based on these same premises with the ultimate goal of enhancing the TR profession. As members of TRAAC we all have the responsibility to keep the profession growing. Our association is nothing without its members. Without the dedication of the few active members continuing education units would not be provided on a local level, networking opportunities would be limited, conferences would not be organized, information about legislation would not exist, jobs would not be created, and local educational institutions would not have programs.

This is a lot of work for a few people but like the saying goes, "many hands make light work". As a new profession we need to start providing the essentials needed to help ourselves grow and develop into a group of individuals that are truly passionate about what we do. It doesn't take much to become involved. We are not asking for full time hours. The board has the responsibility to play a large role as we try to develop plans to move us forward but we need you to help us achieve those plans. We all have an opportunity to get involved. We need to be active participants in our professional careers. You have identified priorities through the survey to tackle and now is the time for us to be unified and act on these priorities which will in turn have a large impact on us as individuals and us as a profession. . The "board" cannot do it alone. We need you! We are so much more powerful together. Make your membership a priority by actively participating in the

advancement of the profession.

To get involved in the priorities listed below contact me at cwatson@dal.ca
If you are interested in attending our next board meeting is at the IWK on September 10th,
2007 @ 4:30pm in the cafeteria

Submitted By Lora Harvey BSc. TR Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association
Outstanding Student Award Recipient and Crystal Watson, CTRS, Therapeutic Recreation
Association of Atlantic Canada, President

Congratulations to the Recreation Graduates of 2007!



Therapeutic Recreation - Jennifer Bailly, Jacqueline Cook, Andrea DeFinney, Renee Gaudet, Lora Harvey, Andrea King, Kathleen Kutzer, Elisa Lerman, Vickey Levy, Ardelle Piper, Robyn Polan, Charlotte Stevens, Laura Tibbo, Sara Wood, Stephanie Wood. **Recreation Management** - Ryan Brooksbank, Robert Downey, Leslie Duncan, Jared Goldlust, Roberta Gosse, Jennifer Jonah, Shayla Kennedy, Andrew Leiper, Craig MacTavish, Matthew Maguire, Dominic Martin, Erin Robertson, Louise Rochefort, Meghan Tabor

nsc

Therapeutic Recreation Diploma Program - Erin Beaton, Miranda Brophy, Victoria Clark, Jacqueline Dunnewold, Meggan Field, Keith Gale, Holly Gill, Stacy Gillis, Tara Gillis, Lois Harris, Laura Heighton, Melissa Hynes, Bonnie Joldersma, Alicia Jordan, Ashley Kean, Chantal Long, Jessica Mannette, Justine Manthorne, Anita Matheson, Michelle Muise, Chris Rafuse, Linda Redding, Elizabeth Ryan, Jannis Sanford, Arlene Smith-Lowe, Susan Walsh, Regina Wasalinska, Monica Williams, Jennifer Yorke