



OSPAPPH Member Newsletter

March 2009

OSPAPPH Needs YOU!

The Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health (OSPAPPH) is gaining momentum. The term for current executive members is coming to an end, and we are currently looking for new executive members for the 2009/2010 term. Executive Committee positions available include co-chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, and one regional representative from each of the six public health unit regions (South West, Central West, Central East, Eastern, North East, and North West). In April we will be accepting names for executive positions followed by elections in May 2009. For more information about any of the positions, feel free to contact any Executive member or visit www.ospapph.ca

Farewell and Best Wishes to Donna Howard

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to OSPAPPH Co-Chair, Donna Howard. Although we are very happy to announce that Donna recently accepted a position as Policy Advisor with the Ministry of Health Promotion's Sport and Recreation Branch, we are sad to see Donna leave her position with OSPAPPH. Over the last couple of years, Donna has been instrumental in the development of OSPAPPH. We wish Donna all the best in her new position and look forward to working with her on future projects.

2009/2010 Annual Health Department Membership Registration

It's that time of year again! We will be starting our annual membership drive next month. We'd like to thank all members for your continuing support. Registration forms will be emailed to health departments in early April and annual membership registrations are due by June 1, 2009

Virtual Annual General Meeting 2009

The 2nd annual OSPAPPH Virtual AGM will take place June 2nd, 2009 from 1-3pm. We have lined up Larry Ketcheson, CEO with Parks and Recreation Ontario to discuss current PRO initiatives and links to public health. The Executive is also hoping to share more information about the 3rd International Congress on Physical Activity. Stay tuned for more details. If you have any suggestions, please forward your ideas to your Regional Representative.

MISSION

To elevate physical activity as a public health priority in Ontario through engagement, education, advocacy and strategic alliances.



Physical Activity Promoter Scan

Thank you for your responses; so far, we have heard from 75% of health departments. We would really like to hear from all health units. If you would like to submit a response, please contact the OSPAPPH Regional Rep for your area. We will be accepting scans until March 31, 2009. Results will be compiled and a report shared with respondents.

OSPAPPH Five Year Workplan

The OSPAPPH Executive met in November 2008 to develop a 5 year workplan. Here are a few activity highlights:

- Create opportunities for involvement by inviting members to represent OSPAPPH at conferences including CLFRI and the International Congress on PA in 2010.
- Advocate for consistent and evidence –based physical activity common messages representative of public health.
- Coordinate efforts with provincial and national organizations to promote physical activity.
- Publicize and advocate for public health’s role in promoting physical activity to the community, governments, non-government organizations, and others.
- Advocate for OSPAPPH to be included on provincial advisory committees (e.g. HEAL, After-School Strategy).

Feedback & Partnerships

OSPAPPH Executive members have been busy networking with various stakeholders and are currently engaged with the following groups and/or projects:

Ontario Collaborative Group for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (OCGHEPA)

- On-going committee participation and response provided to the proposed Ministry of Health Promotion’s Children and Youth Health and Wellness (After-School) Strategy;

Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO)

- OSPAPPH will be working with staff at PRO to identify the links between PRO strategic directions and the new Ontario Public Health Standards.

Public Health Physical Activity Workforce

- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) - Centre for Health Promotion is working on the development of a discussion paper that would paint a picture of the current public health physical activity workforce in Canada. OSPAPPH members were involved as key informants.

Physical Activity Resource Centre (PARC)

- PARC and OSPAPPH will be working together to coordinate information-sharing and ideas for potential professional development opportunities for physical activity promoters.

These and other strategic partnerships are a pivotal part of OSPAPPH fulfilling its mandate and ensuring the voice of Physical Activity is heard.

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Outgoing OSPAPPH Executive:

Elections are fast-approaching. Consider putting your name forward for the 2009/2010 term. For more information about any of the positions, feel free to contact any Executive member:

Michele Crowley – Co-Chair, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit,
michele.crowley@hnhu.org

Alison Bochsler – Co-Chair, Hamilton Public Health Services
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Erika Haney - Treasurer, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
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Jennifer Ronan – Secretary, Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit
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Elaine Fischer – North West Regional Representative, Northwestern Health Unit
efischer@nwhu.on.ca

Kristy Eagleson – North East Regional Representative, Algoma Public Health
keagleson@algomapublichealth.com

Vacant – South West Regional Representative

Lisa Kaldeway – Central East Regional Representative, Haliburton Kawartha
Pine Ridge District Health Unit
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Chantal Lalonde – Eastern Ontario Regional Representative, Eastern Ontario
Health Unit
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Contact us with your ideas and suggestions. We love hearing from you!

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