



OASIS

focus

A PUBLICATION OF ONTARIO AGENCIES SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS · SUMMER 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The first edition of the OASIS News Digest email went out on June 24, 2013. Please let us know how you like the new look and if this communication format meets your needs. We will be re-designing Focus to reach a broader audience while using the Digest to communicate more frequently with members.

The OASIS Board of Directors met in Niagara Falls on June 19th and 20th, 2013 and began reviewing and updating the strategic priorities for OASIS. Further work will continue at the Executive meeting in August.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the four new members who were approved at the May 7th and June 20th Board meetings in Ottawa and Niagara Falls: YWCA Hamilton, Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley, Rotary Cheshire Homes Inc. and Community Living Manitoulin. This brings our current membership to 173.

OASIS extended congratulations to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberal Government on recognizing the needs of Ontarians with developmental disabilities and their families in the 2013 Provincial Budget. The budget was backed by the NDP and passed on June 11th.

On June 3, 2013 OASIS representatives met with the Minister of Children and Youth Services, Teresa Piruzza, to discuss transition planning for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) with developmental disabilities that are leaving school and entering adult life.

Funding has been approved for a second operating pressures survey which was circulated to OASIS members on May 30, 2013. The survey link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/773TTQ5>

Members are always welcome at the Board meetings. We welcome you to join us or contact me prior to the meeting to share your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by email at tjoris@execulink.com or by phone at 519-786-2151 ext. 5502.

Jane Joris, *OASIS President*



ANNIE OLIVER AWARD RECIPIENT 2013



Marion Peck, Chief Executive Officer at Simcoe Community Services in Barrie is this year's recipient of Annie Oliver Award for Excellence. Marion has consistently demonstrated strong leadership through various initiatives – within her own agency, and at a regional level. She has been involved in Ministry planning initiatives for both children and adults for more than 20 years. She has offered her expertise and experience to many initiatives including the facility closure, analysis of service gaps, development of best practices and creation of innovative housing support options for the Developmental Services Sector, and support to partner agencies and colleagues.

She has invested her energy, enthusiasm and experience in many activities at the provincial level that have benefited all OASIS member agencies and the entire Developmental Services Sector. She has been an active member of the OASIS Labour Relations Committee, a key member at the Developmental Services Provincial Discussion Table, a member of the Provincial Network's Human Resources Committee for many years, participated in the Ontario Fire Marshal's Technical Advisory Committee, is a supporting Executive Director to the Vice President of the OASIS Board and Co-Chair of the Pay Equity Campaign.

For over 20 years, she worked at Madawaska Valley Association for Community Living.

Two years ago, she accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer at Simcoe Community Services in Barrie. She quickly established herself as a leader within the developmental services sector in the Simcoe region and within the community of Barrie.

Congratulations Marion.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board of Directors

September 11-12, 2013
Cambridge

October 30-31, 2013
Toronto

December 4-5, 2013
Toronto

IDEAS & ARTICLES ARE WELCOMED

Please contact
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OASIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Joris, President
Judy Reid, Past-President
David Barber,
Vice President Volunteer
Allan Mills, Vice President
Executive Director
Lu-Ann Cowell, Treasurer
Donna Britten, Secretary
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Directors:
Mal Coubrough
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Steven Finlay
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OASIS

To facilitate the sharing of ideas, resources, systems and information, OASIS will liaise with government on behalf of member organizations with the goal of improving the development of cost effective quality supports for individuals with developmental disabilities

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

ALLAN MILLS – VICE PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In this issue we are profiling Allan Mills - OASIS' Vice President Executive Director.

In June Allan celebrated his 25th anniversary at Christian Horizons. He has worked in a variety of roles in Waterloo, Ottawa and other communities within Ontario. He currently oversees all Christian Horizons programs across the province, serving as Vice President of Ontario since 2008.


Allan completed his undergraduate degree at Wilfrid Laurier University in 1989, while working part-time in a Waterloo area children's program with Christian Horizons. In 2010 Allan completed a Master of Arts (Leadership) at the University of Guelph. Allan has taught at Conestoga College as well as Emmanuel Bible College in courses related to developmental services and currently teaches with the University of Waterloo Leadership

Certificate program on behalf of Christian Horizons. He travels the province regularly with his Christian Horizons role as well as on behalf of OASIS.

Allan joined the OASIS board in 2011, and has served on the Communications Committee (currently as chair) since 2010. "Coach Al" volunteered with New Hamburg Minor Hockey for ten years and continues to play the game, cheering for the New Hamburg Huskies and the Toronto Maple Leafs. Allan volunteers in other capacities such as the Building Community Retreat, Special Hockey International Tournament 2013, and as chair of the Peace & Justice Committee at his local church. Allan enjoys running, hockey and playing guitar. He is the extremely proud father of two awesome teenagers, Riley and Laurel.



Putting Our Best Foot Forward

 **OASIS** | May 8-10, 2013 | The Westin Ottawa

OASIS CONFERENCE 2013!

Congratulations to the 2013 Conference Committee on putting their best foot forward! What a great experience for everyone who attended.

The 2013 OASIS Conference was held at the Westin Hotel in the heart of Ottawa on the Rideau Canal. This year's conference attracted 471 participants including conference delegates, speakers, exhibitors and event staff. The majority of the attendees reported that the conference met or exceeded their expectations in the survey completed following the conference.

The conference began with a very special Welcoming Evening held at the Canadian Museum of Civilization located on the banks of the Ottawa River, with spectacular views of Parliament Hill and the Ottawa city skyline.

Thanks to the hard working conference committee and the conference planners, twelve concurrent workshops were presented. Jim Pealow opened the conference by delivering a keynote on Knowledge: The GPS to Moving Along Pathways



Welcome Banquet at the Canadian Museum of Civilization

to Success. He provided insightful information on the many paths that organizations must choose, with each direction providing multiple challenges and opportunities. Brain Trainer, Brian Thwaites, provided a provocative, enlightening and entertaining take on the latest information from the disciplines of brain research, learning theory and the communication field. By using our brains better, we can significantly enhance the way we think, learn and communicate – both personally and professionally.

Closing keynote speaker Alvin Law is an award winning musician, best-selling author and a member of Canada's Professional Speakers Hall of Fame. Born without arms, Alvin is the definition of Triumph in the face of Tragedy. His presentation has been seen by over two million people around the globe and has inspired groups since 1981.

Thank you to all of the organizations that participated in the Trade Show. Without the contributions of our sponsors and trade show exhibitors the OASIS conference would not be the success it is.

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2013 Conference Committee (left to right): Anne Lacelle-SCS Ottawa, Linda Swalsky-OFPP, Gina St. Amour-Rotary Home, Hugh Nelson-Y's Owl MacLure, Gayle Cameron-ICSS, Bettyanne Sherrer-ProPlan, Jocelyne Paul-OCL, Kimberley Gallant-OCL, Jackie Monforton-Christian Horizons, Cheryl Lapointe-Cornwall, David Ferguson-OCAPDD, Jocelyne Parent Lewis-OCAPDD

Members of the committee who were absent from the picture:

Steve Bent-OCL, Karen Niman-SCS Ottawa, Donna Rietschlin-L'Arche Ottawa, Elisa Wyatt-OFPP, Jaynee Champagne- ICSS, Josee Ouimet-St. Stephens Residences, Karen Belyea-TCE, DJ McDonald-TCE, Mark Palmer-Tamir

The 2014 OASIS Conference will take place May 7th - 9th in London, Ontario. The theme is **"Keep Calm and Move it Along"**.

3. OASIS FOCUS

MORE PHOTOS FROM OASIS CONFERENCE 2013!



Rideau Canal - Ottawa, ON



Putting Our Best Foot Forward



Keynote Speaker Brian Thwaites



Many Conference Delegates enjoyed a round of golf at Hautes Plaines

2013 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

At the 2013 OASIS Conference the first recipients of three new scholarship funds were announced:

- **JOCELYNE PAUL - PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

This scholarship is available to Executive Directors to utilize for travel, accommodations, meals and registration fees for a course of their choosing. Jocelyne Paul will utilize the \$5,000 scholarship to invest in executive coaching sessions that will enable her to have a greater impact within her own agency and in the regional and provincial developmental services sector. When she has completed her coaching sessions she intends to share her learning with the people in her organization to further their succession plan and within the Developmental Services sector.

- **DWAYNE MILLEY & KIM GALLANT - GERRY SUTTON AWARD**

This scholarship is available to Executive Directors and Senior Managers to attend the Queen's/OASIS Leadership program. There were 2 winners of this scholarship announced this year. Dwayne Milley was the winner for the 2013 session that was held in March 2013 and the recipient who will attend the 2014 session of the Queen's program is Kim Gallant.

- **MICHELLE MARSHALL - GEORGE BRAITHWAITE AWARD**

This scholarship is available to Executive Directors to utilize for travel, accommodation, meals and registration fees to attend the National Consortium on Developmental Disabilities week long Leadership Institute at the University of Delaware. This year's recipient is Michelle Marshall.

We encourage Executive Directors and Seniors Managers to apply for these annual scholarships.