

**2009/10
Annual Report**



**RECREATION CONNECTIONS
MANITOBA**

Mission Statement

Recreation Connections Manitoba, Inc. exists to collectively share the passion and spirit of recreation and is dedicated to enhancing the health and wellness of all Manitobans through the development and support of recreation professionals, practitioners and volunteers.

Goals

- 1. Organization Efficiency**
To operate under sound business practices and guiding principles.
- 2. Education**
To provide professional and volunteer development opportunities.
- 3. Networking and Partnerships**
To promote and develop services that allow all those interested in the many components of the recreation delivery system to link together through information sharing and communication.
- 4. Advocacy**
To provide a voice, vision and representation of the issues facing the recreation delivery system in Manitoba.

Staff

Cory Jackson

Executive Director

Jackie Onagi

Training and Event Coordinator

Provincial Coordinator – SOGO Active

Sandi Nicol

Administrative Assistant

2009/2010

Board of Directors

Paul Huntington, President

City of Winnipeg Community Development
and Recreation Services Division

Stephanie Foy, Past President

Manitoba Fitness Council

Monika Kowal, Treasurer

City of Winnipeg Community Development
and Recreation Services Division

Tim Fergus

City of Winnipeg Community Development
and Recreation Services Division

Perry Neufeld

Youth for Christ (Stonewall)

Perry Roque

City of Brandon

Heather Todoschuk

City of Thompson

Tony Zerucha

Springfield Recreation Commission

Jeanne Zwiep

City of Portage la Prairie

Jocelyn MacLeod

(ex-officio)

Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and
Seniors

Cory Jackson

Executive Director

Recreation Connections Manitoba

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President's and Executive Director's Message

It is with great pleasure that we report on another exciting and busy year for Recreation Connections Manitoba. The Association continues to move forward and gaining strength in a number of key areas including but not limited to partnerships, advocacy, membership and training. Moving into the Sport for Life Centre is an extremely important step in Recreation Connections Manitoba's evolution and will allow staff to work more efficiently and effectively on behalf of our members.

The considerable work undertaken this past year could not have succeeded without the support of dedicated volunteers and staff. We would like to express our most sincere thank you to the Board, committee and task group volunteers who have shared their time, talent and expertise. We would also like to thank our members, the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and Sport Manitoba for their support of the work we do.

Innovation, strong leadership and efficient financial management have all helped to advance the work of the association. We look forward to the year ahead as we continue to build on this mandate and the successes of the past year.

Paul Huntington, President

Cory Jackson, Executive Director

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT

*Paul Huntington &
Monika Kowal, Co-Chairs*

The unaudited Financial Review being presented at the AGM will be for the period of April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

Stephanson Lee Romaniuk Chartered Accountants have handled the financial review for the past five reviews. The recommendation adopted by the board is to continue to retain their services for the 2009/2010 financial review.

We have continued to utilize the Sport Manitoba finance unit to prepare the monthly financial statements.

With increasing training initiatives, special projects and day-to-day administration we modified the staffing for the organization in 2009/2010. The Executive Director, Cory Jackson and Training & Event Coordinator, Jackie Onagi are working on a ¾ time basis.

Cory continues to play the primary role in running the operations of the organization and representing the organization at various meetings with provincial and national organizations. Jackie's focus is on training events, membership and special initiatives including SOGO Active.

Recreation Connections Manitoba will be moving into the new Sport Manitoba 'Sport for Life' Centre, March 1st 2010. The move into a central office location (145 Pacific Avenue in the Exchange District) will make the association more accessible, allow us to operate more efficiently and afford us services that will benefit our core operations. We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Sport Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba and the support of our members . . . who all had a 'hand' in making this possible!

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Jeanne Zwiep, Chair

The 2009 Annual Provincial Conference was held February 25th - 27th at the Victoria Inn, Winnipeg. The conference theme "People, Places, Parks and Play" featured a variety of keynote and workshop sessions, lead by some of Manitoba's and Canada's leading experts in the recreation field. A total of 158 individuals representing 46 Manitoba communities were in attendance. Many thanks to the Conference Steering Committee, Program Committee and student volunteers for their support and assistance.

Recreation Connections Manitoba (RCM) is committed to provide training and professional development opportunities to enhance the skills of those working in the recreation and related fields. To support this endeavour, the Professional Development (PD) Grant was established in 2008, in partnership with Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport, to provide opportunities for members to access financial assistance to host workshops and seminars in their region. A total of four (4) grants, totaling \$2,100.00 were approved in 2009/2010 for a regional conference in NORMAN and workshops that targeted recreation professionals and practitioners in the Central, Westman and Winnipeg regions.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Recreation Connection Manitoba (RCM) website continues to serve as a vital communication tool in raising the Associations' profile and in sharing news, events, job postings and other relevant information with members and supporters throughout Manitoba. The website averages 1,325 hits per day and 124 visitors per day.

Email bulletins (i.e. community news, job postings, program information, special events, etc.) were broadcasted through the RCM office on a regular basis. Over the course of the past year, there were over 400 items posted.

The 2009 "The Connection" - Who's Who Directory in Recreation, Sport and Fitness in Manitoba were published and distributed to members of the association.

ADVOCACY

Recreation Connections Manitoba plays an important role in educating and promoting the benefits of recreation and recreation leadership. It is through collective action of our members, partners, communities and government that we can positively impact and influence the future of recreation in Manitoba.

June is Recreation and Parks Month

Communities, municipalities and organizations were invited to observe and celebrate June is Recreation and Parks Month in 2009. June is Recreation and Parks Month (JRPM) is an opportunity to showcase programs, events and activities as well as promote the important benefits and value of recreation, sports, fitness and parks programs and services to individuals and families. Among the communities who participated were The City of Winnipeg Recreation Services and Brandon Sportsplex.



Everybody gets to play™

Access to Recreation Capacity Planning Meeting, 17 agencies participated in the half day meeting (April 6, 2009) in Winnipeg. The meeting included an orientation to the Everybody gets to play™ toolkit and resources as well as identifying action steps to build capacity within Manitoba around accessible recreation for low income families and their children.

“Promising Practices Guide for Access to Recreation for All Children, Youth and Families in Manitoba” Recreation Connections Manitoba and its’ partners (the Promising Practices Manitoba Task Group) embarked on this initiative with the goal to create and share a resource that will provide examples of progressive leadership and innovative programs, strategies and/or policies that support participation and enhance access to recreation for all children, youth and families in Manitoba. The resource will provide community organizations, groups and municipalities across Manitoba with solid examples of practices that have been successful in overcoming barriers to recreation. The resource will be shared and distributed by March 31st, 2010

Recreation Opportunities for Children (ROC) Pilot Project, The Province of Manitoba Rewarding Work pilot projects are testing different service models to see how such non-traditional approaches further assist EIA participants achieve their goals. Recreation Opportunities for Children (ROC) is one such pilot.

Recreation Connections Manitoba has earmarked a portion of the funding we received through CPRA to help offset some of the operational costs associated with the rural pilot projects as well as developing and implementing an advocacy strategy to help raise awareness in rural Manitoba on the issues of accessible recreation to low-income families and support efforts to remove barriers.

SOGO ACTIVE

In 2008, Recreation Connections Manitoba along with 12 Provincial/Territorial partners, enlisted as the Provincial Coordinator for a new and exciting national physical activity initiative, targeting youth between 13 – 19 years of age. ParticipACTION designed the concept and content of SOGO Active and created the network of provincial and territorial organizations. Coca Cola Canada committed the funding to support this initiative and as a Presenting Sponsor of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch

Relay, Coca Cola Canada also allotted at least 1,000 torchbearer slots for the participants of SOGO ACTIVE, linking SOGO ACTIVE to the magic of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics Games. We are coming up to the end of the “Torchbearer Phase” of SOGO Active. Thirty five (35) youth and two teams of twenty (20) torchbearers were rewarded and randomly selected by Coca Cola Canada in Manitoba. This was a once in a lifetime experience. In Manitoba, we successfully recruited more than 400 youth to SOGO Active. This number is on par as compared to other provinces based on population size. So congratulations to us all. But...we still have a way to go. Getting more youth active, addressing the inactivity crisis in Canada is still our focus and will be our focus in the coming months as we prepare for the “Legacy Phase” of the SOGO Active program which is scheduled to launch April 1, 2010.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Tim Fergus, Chair

Membership continues to be a priority for the Recreation Connections Manitoba. Our challenge the past two years has been to re-register our existing members and to continue to register new members. To date the retention rate has been 81% for individual members and 94% for local government. As of January 25th, there are 242 members in good standing. The following is a breakdown of our membership:

- 37 Individual Members
- 136 individuals are registered as Local Government Members. They represent 38 municipalities, First Nation communities or recreation districts.
- 17 Associate Members
- 33 Student Members
- 19 Corporate Members

Thank you to all who have registered as a member of Recreation Connections Manitoba. We would encourage those that are not members, to do so. A strong, collective voice for recreation will go a long way to strengthen our profession. Join us in shaping the future of recreation in Manitoba.

FACILITIES, PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Perry Roque and Cory Jackson, Co-Chairs

Facilities, Parks and Open Spaces presents the Association with the greatest opportunities and challenge in offering professionals and practitioners programs and services that facilitate and promote the safe, efficient and competent operation of recreational facilities.

There is ever-increasing demand for training and professional development for recreation professionals, facility managers, facility operators, front-line and seasonal staff. In 2009/2010, we had 213 people registered in fourteen (14) training courses and workshops.

RCM continues to be a key member of the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council (CRFC) which include RCM representatives attending the annual forum in Richmond, BC (June 2009) and hosting the Western CRFC Regional Meeting in September 2009.

The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) presented Cory Jackson with a Certificate of Merit at the 2009 Annual CRFC Forum in recognition of her leadership both as Executive Director of Recreation Connections Manitoba, as well as for fostering a greater connection between the two organizations in the offering of professional development to our membership.

The Western Master Facility Operators Certification and other signature programs are still being considered and researched.

Working collaboratively with such partners as the Province of Manitoba, Alberta Association for Recreation Facility Personnel, CIMCO, the City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services, I.C.E. Marketing and Consulting, we were able to offer the following workshops and courses:

- Aquatic Facility Operator Courses (March 2009, Winnipeg and April 2009, Brandon)
- Arena/Curling Rink Operations Level II (April 2009)
- Arena/Curling Rink Operations Level I (September 2009, Winnipeg & March 2010, The Pas)

- Aquatic Facility Operator Courses (November 2009, Winnipeg and March 2010, Dauphin)
- Ice Maintenance Workshops (November 2009 in Winnipeg, Wawanesa and Neepawa)
- Supervisory Skills for Facility Manager (January 2010, Winnipeg)
- Ice Arena Operations and Outdoor, Natural Ice (January 2010, Winnipeg)
- Effective Group Facilitation Workshops (January 2010, Winnipeg and Brandon)
- Three (3) facility focused workshops at the 2010 Annual Provincial Conference

AWARDS & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

Colleen Plumton, Chair

The annual presentation of these awards reflects Recreation Connections Manitoba commitment to celebrate and publicly recognize recreation professionals. The awards were presented, in conjunction with the RCM Provincial Conference, at the President's Luncheon and Awards Ceremony.

The awards are:

Prairie Crocus Award honours a professional who have made a significant, long term contribution to recreation, parks and/or leisure services within the Province of Manitoba.

President's Award for Outstanding Achievement recognizes a recreation professional or group of recreation professionals who have made a substantial contribution through a community, regional or provincial recreation project, initiative, program or event.

Student Leadership Award is presented to a student who has made a significant contribution to recreation, parks and/or leisure services through his/her volunteer activities, work experience and academic studies.



Congratulations to the 2010 award recipients. They are:

- Prairie Crocus Award – **Linda Yablonski**
- President Award for Outstanding Achievement – **Making the Move to Healthy Choices Project Committee**

The Recognition Service Award is a new category and will be presented annually by the Board of Directors. The award recognizes individuals for years of service, for their support and work on various committee, task group and special projects of Recreation Connections Manitoba.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Board of Directors welcomed opportunities for Recreation Connections Manitoba to participate in local, provincial and national initiatives. They included:

- CPRA Board of Directors
- Manitoba Fitness Council Board of Directors
- Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba (PACM) Executive Committee and Recreation Leadership Task Group
- Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba (PACM) Recreation and Active Transportation Summit Steering Committee
- Undergraduate Advisory Board, Faculty of Kinesiology & Recreation Management, University of Manitoba
- University of Manitoba Recreation Management Career Fair

- Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
 - Partner's Meeting – April 2009, Toronto Ontario
 - Board of Directors/Partner's Meeting – October 2009, Lake Louise Alberta

- Canadian Recreation Facility Council
 - Annual Forum – June 2009, Richmond British Columbia
 - Western CRFC Regional Meeting – September 2009, Winnipeg

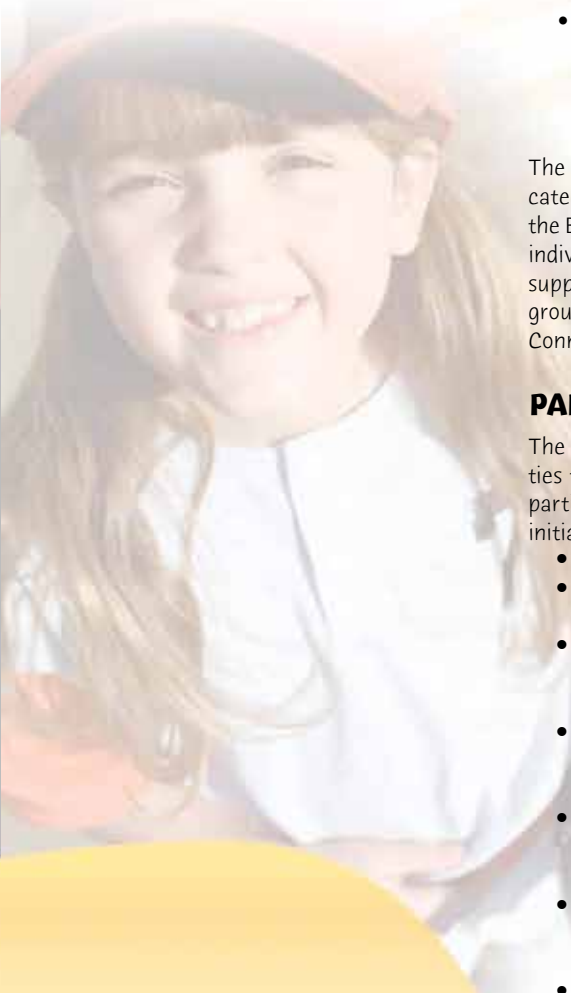
CANADIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (CPRA) UPDATE

At the special general meeting of CPRA on June 22nd, 2009, a new governance structure for the association was adopted which resulted in the creation of a national alliance of provincial and territorial partners. Each P/T partner has identified a representative (and alternate) to sit on the CPRA Board of Directors. **Recreation Connections Manitoba board representative is Paul Huntington, President and our alternate is Stephanie Foy, Past President.**

Three meetings of the new Board have occurred: by teleconference on July 14th and September 29th; in person on October 27/28 immediately preceding the annual conference of the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association. We are very pleased to report positive progress to you, our members.

The October board agenda set out some key objectives:

- To review in detail the financial situation of CPRA and identify elements of a debt reduction strategy;
- To discuss short-term strategic priorities including:
 - focusing on a communications strategy/protocol
 - renewing the Canada Gets Active project for 2010/2011
 - developing a framework for a national recreation summit in 2011
 - a renewed engagement with our strategic partners including but not limited to the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council (ISRC), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Canadian Parks Council (CPC).
- To consider ways to evolve our shared leadership and accountability model.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The RCM Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and thank our many volunteers (and their respective organizations) for their dedication, commitment and support. You played a vital role in our success for 2009/2010. Thank You!

2010 Conference Steering Committee Members

Jeanne Zwiép, Chair
City of Portage la Prairie Recreation & Leisure Services

Corey Burgess
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Kathleen Beaton
City of Brandon Community Services

Maria Swanson
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Luisa Carnevale
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Barb Pettapiece
Morris Area Recreation District

Jocelyn MacLeod
Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors

Program Committee Members

Luisa Carnevale, Chair
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Corey Burgess
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Faye Finch
Sport Manitoba

Frederick Soucy
University College of the North

Barb Pettapiece
Morris Area Recreation District

Rani Chisholm
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Jocelyn MacLeod
Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors

Awards & Selection Committee Members

Colleen Plumton, chair
University of Manitoba, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management

Ron Epp
Altona Area Recreation District
2008 Prairie Crocus Award recipient

Donna Watts
Brokenhead River Recreation Commission

Amber Whitehead
Kelsey Recreation Commission

SOGO Active Advisory Committee Members

Kami Desilet
Coalition of Community Based Youth Servicing Agencies

Stephanie Foy
Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba

Jaymi Derrett
Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors

Steve Bremrose
General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres

Eric Lemoine
Directorat de l'activité du Manitoba

Frederick Soucy
Northern Manitoba Recreation Association

Cora Lee Baker
City of Brandon Community Services

Elaine Cullingham
Girls Guides of Canada (Manitoba Chapter)

Steve Klassen
Youth for Christ

Judy Asker
Active Living Alliance for Canadians with Disabilities

Terri Studholme
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Angela Hildebrand
YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg

Jocelyn MacLeod
Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors

June is Recreation and Parks Month Steering Committee Members

Karen Beck
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Tracy Elbourne
Manitoba Parks

Elizabeth Ostrop
Manitoba Parks

Karis Enn,
City of Winnipeg, SPIN Program

Jocelyn MacLeod
Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors

Lisa Scharf
Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba/
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba

Everybody gets to play™ Promising Practices Manitoba Task Group Members

Karen Beck
City of Winnipeg Community Development and Recreation Services Division

Tracy Krassman
Healthy Child Coalition (Central Region)

Amanda Daurie
KidSport

Mel Whitesell
Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council

Jocelyn MacLeod
Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors

Jaymi Derrett
Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors

Madeleine Sarrasin
South Eastman Health

Rick Lambert/Ken Faulder
Sport Manitoba

Kristine Hayward
Winnipeg in motion/Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council