

**Canadian Deafblind and Rubella Association  
National**



**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Calgary, Alberta**

## **INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT**

2008 Annual General Meeting Agenda

2007 – 2008 National Board of Directors

2007 – 2008 Regional Chapters and Contact People

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

President's Report 2007 – 2008

Executive Director's Report 2007 – 2008

Auditor's Financial Statements

Chapter Reports

Awards

## **CDBRA NATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT**

***CDBRA is a national organization, whose mission is to promote and enhance the well-being of people who are deafblind through: advocacy, development and transfer of knowledge and providing support for Chapters and other partners.***

**Canadian Deafblind and Rubella Association  
33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Delta Calgary South  
Calgary, Alberta  
October 18, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 PM

**BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

Call to Order.....	President - Carolyn Monaco
Approval of the Agenda.....	“ “
Approval of the Minutes - 2007 AGM.....	“ “
President's Address .....	“ “
Approval of Financial Statements.....	Treasurer - Roger Hunter
Appointment of Auditor.....	“ “
Executive Director's Report.....	Executive Director - Stan Munroe
Chapter Reports.....	Chapter Representatives
Rebranding of Name and Logo .....	President - Carolyn Monaco
Report of Nominating Committee.....	V.P. Admin. - Marilyn Robinson
Election of Board of Directors.....	Executive Director - Stan Munroe
Awards.....	President - Carolyn Monaco
Other Business.....	President - Carolyn Monaco
Adjournment.....	President

Cake and coffee will be served following the meeting.

## 2007 - 2008 NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CANADIAN DEAFBLIND AND RUBELLA ASSOCIATION

*\*Due to privacy, the contact information for the Board of Directors has been removed from this list.*

NAME	OFFICE	DATE ELECTED
Carolyn Monaco	President Director at Large	10-20-2007
Dan Crawford	Vice - President Special Programs Director at Large	10-20-2007
Marilyn Robinson	Vice-President Administration Manitoba Chapter Representative	10-20-2007
Roger Hunter	Secretary-Treasurer Director At Large	10-20-2007
Wylie Bystedt	Director British Columbia Chapter Representative	09-24-2006
Allan Matheis	Director Saskatchewan Chapter Representative	09-24-2006
Catherine Wareham	Director Director at Large	10-20-2007

Wayne Turnbull	Director  Alberta Chapter Representative	09-24-2006
Dwain McLean	Director  New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island Chapter Representative	10-20-2007
Judy Dandurand	Director  Director at Large	10-20-2007
Suzanne McConnell	Director  Nova Scotia Chapter Representative	09-24-2006
Cheryl Ramey	Director  Ontario Chapter Representative	10-20-2007
Jon van Bilsen	Director  Director at Large	10-20-2007
Rebecca Shields	Director  Director at Large	10-20-2007

**Executive Director:** Stan Munroe  
2652 Morien Highway  
Port Morien, NS  
B1B 1C6  
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1(866) 229-5832 (Toll Free)  
(902) 737-1114  
Email: cdbra@seaside.ns.ca

## Regional Chapters and Contact People

### British Columbia Chapter

Wylie Bystedt  
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(604) 517-6137 (F)  
E-mail: wylieb@telus.net

### New Brunswick /P.E.I. Chapter

Patricia Curtis, Executive Director  
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Fredericton, NB  
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(506) 451-8309 (F)  
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### Alberta Chapter

Wayne Turnbull  
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Calgary, AB  
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### Ontario Chapter

Cathy Proll, Executive Director  
54 Brant Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
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1 877 760-7439 (B toll free)  
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### Saskatchewan Chapter

Lorraine Williams, Administrator  
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Saskatoon, SK  
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### Nova Scotia Chapter

Suzanne McConnell  
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### Manitoba Chapter

Sandy Owczar, Executive Director  
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**CDBRA NATIONAL  
32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Delta Meadowvale  
Mississauga, Ontario  
October 20, 2007**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Voting Members**

Christina St. Amand (plus 2 proxies)  
Catherine Wareham (plus 4 proxies)  
Evelyn and Allan Matheis  
Dan Crawford  
Wayne Turnbull  
Rebecca Shields  
Ericka Dixon-Williams  
Marilyn Robinson (plus 6 proxies)  
Betty Jean Reid (plus 6 proxies)  
Intervenor Program George Brown College (BJ Reid)  
Wylie Bystedt (plus 9 proxies)  
Susanne McConnell  
Roger Hunter  
Dwain McLean  
Marsh Canada Ltd (Jon van Bilsen)  
Carolyn Monaco (plus 7 proxies)  
Rotary Cheshire Homes (Nancy Longo)

**Associate Members (non-voting)**

Sue Hall  
Lorraine Williams  
Cindy Rock  
Cathy Proll  
Patricia Curtis

**Observers**

Terry Greenland  
Stan Munroe  
Peter Shennett  
Sandy Owczar  
Lance Fernandes

**17 members plus 34 proxies = 51 total votes**

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM with President Wylie Bystedt in the Chair. Wylie welcomed everyone and general introductions were made. Wylie thanked the Ontario Board Members in attendance for coming. The National Board members in attendance and Stan Munroe, Executive Director, were introduced. Regrets were received from Judy Dandurand and Cheryl Ramey. An explanation of the proxy process was reviewed. Quorum was established with 17 voting members in attendance and 34 verified proxies received.

**2) Approval of Agenda**

Change #7 from National Committee Reports to Awards.

**2007 AGM-01 Motion to Approve the Agenda:** Moved by Allan Matheis; seconded by Cathe Wareham that the agenda for the 2007 AGM be approved. All in favour.

**3) Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The wrong minutes were included in the AGM booklet – moved to later in the agenda while Stan printed the correct minutes. It was noted that Jon van Bilsen was missing from the Board of Directors List in the AGM booklet.

**4) President's Report**

Wylie Bystedt presented her report for the past year.

**5) Approval of the Financial Statements**

Roger Hunter, Treasurer, introduced Peter Shennett, Auditor, who presented the financial statements. Peter reviewed the results from the year ending March 31, 2007 and cautioned that the organization no longer had funds to fall back on. A discussion took place regarding the financial stability of the organization and plans for rebuilding this.

**2007AGM-02 Motion to Approve the Financial Statements:** Moved by Roger Hunter; seconded by Wayne Turnbull that the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2007 be approved. All in favour with one abstention by Christina St Amand.

**6) Appointment of Auditor**

**2007AGM-03 Motion to Appoint Auditor:** Moved by Roger Hunter; seconded by Allan Matheis to appoint Peter Shennett, CA as Auditor for the year ending March 31, 2008. All in favour.

**7) Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting – revisited**

Wylie Bystedt read the correct minutes from the 2006 Annual General Meeting. Discussion took place about difficulties with the election process from last year and that none were noted in the minutes. Also, there was discussion about the elected Board Members all being re-elected in 2007 and the need for a process to re-establish turnover terms. Wylie noted that the discussions regarding the voting issues from the AGM in 2006 had been dealt with at the Board meetings and discussions and motions were reflected in those minutes.

**2007AGM-04 Motion to Approve Minutes of 2006 AGM:** Moved by Roger Hunter; seconded by Suzanne McConnell to approve the minutes of the 2006 annual general meeting. Opposed: Jon van Bilsen, Rebecca Shields, Cathe Wareham (+ 4 proxies); Christina St Amand (+ 2 proxies), Erika Dixon-Williams – total 11; abstentions: Dwain McLean, In favour 39. Motion Carried.

**8) Awards**

Wylie Bystedt reviewed the list of award winners from the past year.

1. Jocelyn Meroniuk-Vezey (Andrew Love Memorial “Intervenor of the Year” Award)
2. Jessica Tymecki (CDBRA George Brown College Award for Excellence in Field Placement)
3. Stephanie MacDonald (Andrew Love Memorial George Brown College Award).

**9) Executive Director Report**

Stan Munroe presented his Executive Director Report and noted one correction to the published report – the date of the Lend a Hand Golf Tournament should be July 4, 2006.

**2007AGM-05 Motion to Approve the Executive Director's Report:** Moved by Betty Jean Reid; seconded by Allan Matheis to approve the Executive Directors Report with noted correction. All in favour.

**10) Chapter Reports**

The Chapter Reports are contained in the AGM Book. Patricia Curtis, New Brunswick/PEI Executive Director, presented an oral update of her report – The liquor store fundraising raised \$26,000; the Chapter held its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with approximately 100 people in attendance; the Chapter has a new patron – Roxanne Grieves, the Premier's wife. Wylie Bystedt called for any additional additions or comments but none were presented.

**2007AGM-06 Motion to Approve the Chapter Reports:** Moved by Suzanne McConnell; seconded by Wayne Turnbull to accept the 2006-2007 Chapter Reports as published. All in Favour.

**11) Report of the Nominating Committee**

Marilyn Robinson read the report of the Nominating Committee. No election is required this year as there are seven (7) vacancies and seven (7) nominations – all acclaimed. Joanne Newbery is retiring from the Board but is willing to do committee work.

**2007AGM-07 Motion to Accept the slate of officers presented as the new Board of Directors:** Moved by Erika Dixon-Williams; seconded by Christina St Amand to accept the new Board of Directors. All in favour.

**12) Other Business**

No other business was brought forward.

**13) Adjournment**

**2007AGM-08 Motion to Adjourn:** Moved by Wayne Turnbull to adjourn the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Minutes Prepared by Cindy Rock

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## 2007 - 2008

Carolyn Monaco  
National President

It is almost hard to believe that the end of my year as president of CDBRA National has arrived. The field of deafblindness across this country has been very busy this year and both CDBRA National and many of our chapters have had accomplishments that we should all be proud of. Many of those accomplishments you will hear about today as we come together once again to celebrate the past year and to further establish our plans for the future.

It became very apparent to me during my year as president just how many different pockets of activity related to CDBRA National there really are. The nature of CDBRA National as an organization is somewhat fragmented, firstly by the vastness of the country and secondly by the fact that so much of what we do is done in isolation by a variety of people, many of whom most of you have never even met. Today I would like to provide all of you with a little wider perspective of CDBRA National and some of the behind the scenes workings of this organization.

Did you know?

- That much of CDBRA National's history and non essential materials is kept in a storage area in Brantford, Ontario. Stan & I spent a couple of days during the past year looking through boxes and files in an attempt to organize the 10' X 10' X10' bin that our history calls home. The fact that we both have a long history with CDBRA made the task a fascinating one as we revisited many memories of great times gone by.
- That our two newsletters distributed to the membership this year were formatted on a volunteer basis by an employee who works for Marsh Canada. Her name is Lyssa Trieu and we thank her immensely for her generous contribution to our organization.
- That many aspects of the success of our "Lend a Hand" golf tournament are due to a young lady who as part of her role as an Event Coordinator with Marsh Canada works tirelessly for months behind the scenes to put our biggest fund raiser together. Her name is Marta Dziejko and she is the Marsh employee with the "vision" behind our golf tournament.
- That the Ontario Chapter kindly donates the time of two of their key employees to complete specific tasks for CDBRA National. Cindy Rock, the Director of Finance assists our treasurer and our accountant with the financials and Paul Nobes the chapters Fund Developer looks after the membership. The Ontario Chapter also provided us with a thirty thousand dollar donation to complete the Intervenor Competency Project.
- That our executive director Stan Munroe's commitment to CDBRA and individuals who are deafblind has almost single handedly put this organization in a front running position on the international scene. I have had the pleasure of meeting with and speaking to on a number of occasions during the past year the president and executive members of Deafblind International and they are looking to CDBRA to increase our presence and contribution to the International field of deafblindness. Our involvement with Dbl and organizations around the world has resulted in a number of Canadians going abroad during the past year as well as a number of visitors to Canada where we have gained insight into aspects of deafblindness that we would have never known. In turn we have shared information on the philosophy of

intervention, the training of intervenors and the development of quality lifestyles for adults who are deafblind. There are now countries interested in more formally developing intervenor services and post secondary training programs to train those intervenors.

The board this past year has worked to update the image of CDBRA so that it better reflects the community we serve, by looking to rename the organization the Canadian Deafblind Association (CDBA). Along with the new name are modifications to our logo that reflect the fact that CDBA is Canadian. With the adoption of this name and logo we will then look to having greater continuity across all chapters.

After many years in the field of deafblindness and almost as many years involvement with CDBRA it has been a pleasure to serve as president during the past year. I want to thank the members of the board and the executive directors for their support and I sincerely hope that our future includes moving this organization to the next level by supporting our chapters and each other to be the best we can be.

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2007 - 2008**

Stan Munroe  
Executive Director

It was a pleasure to serve as the Executive Director during the past year.

Through the period November 2007-through October 2008 I was involved in the following activities:

## **Administrative Duties**

- Organized 2008-2009 membership renewal process.
- Organized materials to be sent out for AGM in Calgary, October 2008.
- Organized AGM booklet for distribution at 2008 AGM.
- Organized the agenda, participated in and prepared Minutes for Board of Directors meetings.
- Prepared amendment for 2008-2009 HRSDC Operational Grant Application.
- Prepared interim and final reports to HRSDC for 2007-2008 Operational Grant.
- Issued receipts to donors to National and those Chapters without charitable numbers.
- Worked with Treasurer on preparing long term budget proposals.
- Organizing for CDBRA rebranding process.
- Attended 2007 AGM and prepared minutes of Board meetings held coincidental to 2007 AGM.
- Attended NS Chapter AGM in Halifax, January 2008.
- Prepared various articles for last two editions of Intervention Magazine:  
Fall 2007 and Winter/Spring 2008.
- Organized pre-publication materials for last two editions of Intervention Magazine.

## **Awareness**

- Travelled to Ottawa with Board Member Allan Matheis to brief Federal Health Minister Tony Clement on deafblindness and the need for services.

## **Conferences**

- Participating in conference calls (along with Carolyn Monaco) as part of Planning Team for Dbl North American Regional Conference, proposed for Washington DC area, April 2010.
- Prepared reports on a) participation at 2007 Dbl World Conference in Perth Australia, September 2007 and b) conference and speaking engagements in Brazil, November 2007.

## **Lend A Hand Golf Tournament**

- The CDBRA National and Marsh Canada jointly sponsored the 22nd Tournament on July 07, 2008 was once again held at the Nottawasaga Inn near Alliston, Ontario. This year the tournament raised just under \$21,000. This brings to \$399,000.00 the total proceeds donated to CDBRA since the tournament started in 1987.

The success of this tournament once again continues to be largely due to the strong support of our sponsor Marsh Canada who have indicated their preparedness to sponsor the tournament in 2009.

My responsibility, as in previous years, was to arrange for some prizes, teams, coordinate the financial transactions and issue charitable receipts and letters of thanks.

## **Presentations**

- Prepared Paper and Power Point Presentation on Demographic Study and presented same at the `Spirit of Intervenors` Conference in Huntsville Ontario, February 21, 2008.
- Accepted invitation from Grupo Brasil to attend and participate in the II International Forum on Deafblindness and Multiple Impairment / IV National Meeting of Families and Specialised Professionals / VI National Meeting of Deafblind Individuals in the city of Aracaju, Sergipe – Brazil, November 12-16, 2007. All travel expenses paid by Brazil Ministry of Education. Prepared and presented two papers: a) *The Provision of Services for Individuals who are Deafblind in Canada with Particular Reference to the Status of Congenital Rubella Syndrome and Rubella* and b) *Manifestations of Congenital Rubella Syndrome With Special Reference to Later Health Effects* for presentation at the Conference.
- Also accepted invitation from Grupo Brasil to participate in a series of seminars in 3 cities in Northeast Brazil, week of November 19, 2007. Made presentations on *Manifestations of Congenital Rubella Syndrome With Special Reference to Later Health Effects and The Canadian Concept of Intervention* in Fortaleza (State of Ceara), Teachers College -Teresina (State of Piaui) and in Timon (State of Maranhao). All travel expenses paid by CIDA, Canadian Embassy, Sao Paulo.

## **Deafblind International (Dbi)**

- Prepared proposal for CDBRA to host the Dbi Secretariat.
- Attended Dbi Council meeting in Glasgow Scotland, February 23-24, 2008.
- Attended Dbi Council meeting in Wurzburg, Germany, September 16-17, 2008. The Dbi Council has invited CDBRA National to approve my joining the Dbi Management Committee with the responsibility of Dbi Organizational Development.
- Prepared articles for two editions of Dbi Review.

Stan Munroe  
October, 2008

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## A) BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER

### Address & Contact Information

713 Columbia Street (main floor)  
New Westminster, B.C.  
V3M 1B2  
(p) 604-517-6174  
(f) 604-517-6137  
bcinfo@cdblabc.ca  
www.cdblabc.ca

**Name of Chapter Representative to National** – Wylie Bystedt

**Name of Executive Director (if any)** – this position was vacated halfway through the year and the BC Chapter reallocated this funding towards program development.

**Chapter of CDBRA since** mid 1980's.

**Number of Members** 40-50

**Number of Employees** –

1 – Early Intervention Program Director

3 – EI Consultants (P/T)

1 – Office assistant

**Consultants:**

4 – Summer Recreation Support Program Consultants

1 – Summer Intervention Coordinator

60 – Summer Intervenors

1 – General assistance (deafblind consumer)

**Number of Volunteers** – In addition to the board (7), there were at least 14 additional volunteers for a total of 21.

**Board size and Make up** – 7

3 – parents

2 – intervenors

1 – professional

1 – interested person

**Types of Services and Programs**

**Intervention Services** - yes

**Independent Living** - no

**Awareness** - yes

**Training** - yes

**Conferences** – do not host but attend and partner in many other conferences

**Professional Development** - yes

**Fund Raising** - yes

**Camping** - no

**Other activities** – annual member retreat; additional member events

**Partnerships**

DSS (Deafblind Services Society of BC)  
POPDB (Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness)  
DBC-BC (Deafblind Council of British Columbia)  
CSP (Council of Service Providers for Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing)  
CLA (Community Living Association)  
Children's Festival  
Vision Teachers Association of BC  
FNDC – Family Network of Deaf Children

### **Membership recruitment activities**

The BC Chapter provides a free membership for all new referrals.  
Extend invitations to a number of events held throughout the year to members and associated individuals that have yet to become members.

### **Plans or Goals for the Upcoming Year**

In the 2008-2009 year we will be restructuring our Early Intervention Program and changing the role of our consultants in this program.  
We have also created for the first time the position of Family Services Coordinator. This will be the key position for the provision of programs and services to member families, particularly around our summer programs. This position will include advocacy support and working with families one-on-one when requested. This has been a position that the BC Chapter has been working towards creating for a number of years and we are very excited to finally be ready to roll this position out.  
We are planning to extend our Hospital Intervention Support Program to include respite that our members may receive in institutional settings.

## **B) ALBERTA CHAPTER**

### **Address & Contact Information**

P.O. Box 89006, Calgary, Alberta, T2Z 3W3  
Website: [deafblindalberta.ca](http://deafblindalberta.ca) (under construction)

**Contact Information:** Allen Wayne Turnbull

**Name of Chapter Representative to National:** Allen Wayne Turnbull

**Name of Executive Director (if any):** N/A

**Chapter of CDBRA since** 1998

**Number of Members:** 11

**Number of Employees:** 0

**Number of Volunteers:** 15

**Board size and Make up:** Total of 7  
2 Consumers  
1 Deaf  
3 Professionals  
1 Parent

### **Types of Services and Programs**

Intervention Services - Limited

Independent Living - n/a

Awareness - Yes

Training – Not of a formal nature to date

Conferences – n/a

Professional Development – n/a  
Fund Raising – Charity Walk, Casino, Donation Boxes  
Camping – Annual Retreat (Children/Adults/Seniors)  
Other activities (specify) – Barbeques

**Partnerships:** Alberta Disability Forum

**Membership recruitment activities (specify):** Awareness Programs, Word of Mouth, Radio

**Chapter incorporation # if incorporated:** 5010624103

**Plans or Goals for the Upcoming Year:**

- Expand Intervention (possibly hire a full time intervenor)
- Retreat
- Awareness
- Research

## **C) SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER**

### **Address & Contact Information**

83 Tucker Cres.

Saskatoon, SK

S7H 3H7

Phone: 306-374-0022

Fax: 306-374-0004

lorraine.cdbra@shaw.ca

**Name of Chapter Representative to National -** Allan Matheis

**Name of Executive Director -** Lorraine Williams

**Chapter of CDBRA since -** 1985

**Number of Members -** 12

**Number of Employees -** 42

**Number of Volunteers -** N/A

**Board size and Make up -** Presently 7 board members - 3 are family members and 4 are community members.

### **Types of Services and Programs**

**Intervention Services** We have three homes in Saskatoon that support 11 individuals. We have a community based program with 24 hour intervention supports.

#### **Awareness**

We speak to students at the local college that are taking the Rehabilitation Worker and Early Childhood courses.

Agencies across the province meet in Regina and host a MLA Gala. This provides opportunity to meet with MLA's to promote and educate them on what it is we do and what the needs of those who we support are.

#### **Training**

2 day Intervenor Training

Sign Language

CPR

Food Safe

Occupational Health & Safety  
Basic Skills Training  
MANDT (Crisis Prevention)  
Various training events held locally

### **Fund Raising**

We host an annual golf tournament every spring. The majority of these funds help with the mortgage of our newest home. Funds also go toward client programs. Not only is this our major fundraiser, it is also a great avenue for public awareness.

### **Camping**

Most of the individuals attend Camp Easter Seal in Watrous, SK. Due to the high demand of campers; they are only able to attend about every three years. Intervenors attend with them to ensure that all of their needs are met. Some individuals rent cabins at a near by lake every summer (this is where golf funds come into play). They love the outdoors and the break from their regular routines at home.

### **Partnerships**

We work with other community agencies on a regular basis. The Executive Director meets with other ED's once a month. This is a great networking opportunity. We also partner with other agencies in sharing of trainers/resources for staff training and development.

**Chapter incorporation # if incorporated** ..... 207396

### **Plans or Goals for the Upcoming Year**

We are hoping to have a new individual enter our program. We are awaiting funding approval from the government.

## **D) MANITOBA CHAPTER**

### **Address & Contact Information**

201 – 1100 Concordia Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2C 4A9

### **Website and email:**

www.cdbra-mb.com  
sandyowczar@mts.net

**Name of Chapter Representative to National:** Marilyn Robinson

**Name of Executive Director:** Sandy Owczar

**Chapter of CDBRA since:** 1992

**Number of Members:** 20

**Number of Employees:** Through our service provider, Intervention Manitoba Inc., we have approximately 25 employees which includes full time, part time and casual.

**Number of Volunteers:** 7 members are on the Board of Directors

**Board size and Make up:** Our Board is made up of individuals from various walks of life that have been connected to the organization. They include parents and professionals from different industries.

### **Types of Services and Programs:**

Currently our focus is on our Supported Independent Living program that houses four congenitally deafblind individuals.

Through a partnership with the acquired deafblind organization in Manitoba, we participated in an awareness day and had June declared Deafblind Awareness Month. We held our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Texas Hold'em Charity Poker tournament, which turned out to be great time for all who attended – novice players and the experienced! We plan to build on this event for awareness, recruitment, and fundraising purposes in the future.

### **Plans or Goals for the Upcoming Year:**

Over the next year we will be working diligently to provide extensive Intervention training for our staff. This will be accomplished by sending some staff out of province, bringing trainers to us, and improving our internal training processes.

We have been successful in receiving funding to open two new homes for six clients over the next year. Project planning will begin in October 2008.

The CDBRA – Manitoba Chapter and the Intervention Manitoba Boards have merged to become one governing Board. This merger will provide the opportunity for the members to work more closely together toward common goals. To start this new Board off in the right direction, they will be spending two evenings together focusing on the goals of the organization for the next one to three years.

## **E) ONTARIO CHAPTER**

It is my pleasure to present to you an update on the activities of the Ontario Chapter for the past year. We have experienced a year of “wows” and I would really like to share them with you. In addition I would like to update you on our current services and some of the highlights that we have experienced along the way.

For the past year the Ontario Chapter has been a little bit of a construction zone. The Board of Directors and staff have been focusing on the strategic direction of the chapter. With this in mind we organized a number of activities that would assist us in determining our future path and the needs of our membership. One of the first activities we undertook was to survey the members living in Ontario to get their feedback on our services. We then decided that we needed to gather further information on the supports and services other organizations were providing both nationally and internationally.

This was the beginning of the CDBRA Ontario Study Group. The study group was comprised of Cathy Pascuttini, Susan Hall, Carolyn Monaco and Cathy Proll. Our first job was to decide on the areas that we would focus on in our quest for information. We then planned our journey which took us to Scotland, England, Norway, Denmark, and British Columbia. The information and support we received from all of our colleagues was incredible and thus has led to some of the transformation I will describe in my report. If you are interested, copies of the CDBRA Ontario Study Group Report are available from our chapter office.

The Ontario chapter and the services we provide continued to grow and expand. Having said this it has been important for us to build the necessary infrastructure supports and sustainability plans to keep our chapter strong. This was a very important lesson reinforced to us over and over again by our colleagues during our study tours. The one message that continually hit home was the fact CDBRA Ontario had too few people trying to do far too much. With this in mind, we have created 5 new positions on our CDBRA Ontario team. We now have the Coordinator of Program Development and Planning, Human Resource and Payroll Coordinator, Coordinator of Fund Development, The

Children's Services Consultant and a Training Assistant. Over the course of the next year we anticipate the addition of 3 more positions.

I would also like to share with you another initiative that has had a direct impact on the infrastructure of the organization. In 2006 the Ontario Chapter entered into a partnership with the Canadian Hearing Society to develop an Intervenor and Interpreter Database. This has been an amazing opportunity for CDBRA to convert our paper system into an electronic one. The database will provide increased efficiency and the staff will be able to access important information in a timely fashion. The database while largely designed as a case management system will also allow us to provide the Ministry with important statistical information and the critical reporting they require. We expect that this system will be up and fully functional in April 2009.

The Intervention Services Department is now supporting 34 adults who are deafblind and our staff has climbed to approximately 130 people. It is exciting to note that in our recruitment of new staff the graduates we have hired from the Intervenor Program has continued to increase.

As you can well imagine Intervenor Training continues to be a priority within the chapter. The Ontario government has invested quite heavily in increasing wages for Intervenors over the past 2 years. It is our responsibility to respond to this investment by committing to providing the training and development Intervenors require to become highly skilled and professional. As a result CDBRA Ontario has an entire department dedicated to staff training. The Director of Training and Consultation is not only responsible for the internal training that occurs but coordinates the external training and consultation that we provide to other organizations and agencies as well. In the past year we have been able to support some of the other chapters in their quest for training and we hope that this sharing will continue.

The training department has also developed an exciting partnership with the Intervenor Program at George Brown College. As part of the professional development of our staff we are hosting off campus courses from GBC so that our staff are able to acquire the college certification. In addition the Ontario Chapter has committed funds to assist the Intervention staff with the cost of tuition.

Another exciting event happening in September is the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual CDBRA Ontario Awards Night. In our quest to acknowledge the work that Intervenors do and to heighten the awareness and professionalism of Intervenors, the CDBRA Ontario Board of Directors has endorsed an awards night for our staff. The evening will involve a banquet dinner, entertainment, and 5, 10 and 15 year service awards. In addition we have the Rookie Intervenor of the Year Award, the Leadership Award, the Susan Campbell Award, the Innovation and Creativity Award, and the Outstanding Team Award. At the time of writing this report the event has not yet taken place so I look forward to updating you in Calgary!

It is hard to believe but this November we will host the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Parent Conference Weekend. The feedback we receive from families about this weekend is always so inspiring. The benefit that this weekend provides to our families, the mentorship amongst young and seasoned, the resources shared, and the laughter make it all worthwhile. I am a professional who has worked in this field for 27 years and the parent conference weekend is one of the most humbling experiences for me and reinforces to me why I have stayed in this field for as long as I have.

In closing I would also like to mention all of the other information that I know Mr. Munroe wanted included in this report. Our Chapter representative is Cheryl Ramey and we have been an incorporated Chapter since 1991. We distribute an Ontario news letter twice a year and we have a website. [www.cdbraontario.ca](http://www.cdbraontario.ca) Our board of directors is comprised of 12 members: 3 parents of children who are deafblind, 1 consumer, 3 professionals at large, and 5 professionals working in the field. Yes we do fundraise and are always looking for donations. Last but not least we do not have a camp however we are exploring the idea and we do wish to increase our awareness activities. I look forward to seeing all of you in Calgary!

Cathy Proll  
Executive Director  
CDBRA Ontario Chapter

## **G) NEW BRUNSWICK/PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CHAPTER**

### **Address & Contact Information:**

259 Brunswick Street, Suite 301, Fredericton, NB E3B 1G8

**Website and email:** [www.deafblind.nb.ca](http://www.deafblind.nb.ca) [cdbra@nb.aibn.com](mailto:cdbra@nb.aibn.com)

**Name of Chapter Representative to National:** Dwain McLean

**Name of Executive Director (if any):** Patricia Cutis

**Chapter of CDBRA since:** 1982

Number of Members: 50

Number of Employees: 35

**Number of Volunteers:** 20

**Board size and Make up:** 12 members of the Board (3 parents, 9 professionals)

### **Types of Services and Programs**

**Intervention Services:** NB/PEI Intervention Services are provided through the Department of Social Development. Hours of Intervention vary depending on the consumer's needs.

**Independent Living:** CDBRA-NB/PEI is currently working on building the Curtis Complex (a 10 unit building). It is hoped that we will break ground in the spring of 2009.

**Awareness:** Our fundraisers, pictures in local papers, radio announcements, deafblind awareness workshops to school children, two theatre productions.

**Training:** Intervenors usually have a degree and/or the Human Services Counsellor course plus Level 5 sign language and Level I Braille, if required.

Extensive training is provided by APSEA Itinerant teachers and both APSEA and CDBRA resource people.

Along with this training, Intervenors must attend 3 to 4 CDBRA sponsored workshops each year. CDBRA-NB/PEI offers CPR and CPR upgrading each year. Other workshops would include, behaviour management, recreation activities, orientation and mobility, crisis intervention, swimming, fundraising techniques, working with families and/or group home staff, sign language, braille and deafblind technology. Last year we had a provincial staff meeting. Intervenor handbooks were provided and discussed.

Other Support Staff B Any supporting professional that the consumer requires is provided either by the Department of Education or Family and Community Services. The Intervenor is

expected to learn and follow through with certain programs, i.e. Orientation and mobility, occupational/physiotherapy. The Intervenor will often accompany the consumer/parent to medical and dental appointments. All support persons become part of the consumer=s team. Conferences/Professional Development: All Intervenors, consumers, family members and staff are eligible to apply to attend a conference of interest to the NB/PEI Board of Directors (following the established guidelines).

**Fundraising:** Liquor store outlets in Fredericton, Saint John, Bathurst, Dieppe, Oromocto and Grand Manan; the Ford Antique Car Show in Moncton; Rexton Walk-a-thon; a wedding show and golf tournament. This was our 4th golf tournament and it raised over \$7,000.00.

**Camping:** 2007 was our 19<sup>th</sup> annual camping experience for consumers, families and Intervenors. Some of the activities included sensory games, crafts, the amazing race, the price is right, pontoon boat rides to sand dunes in the middle of the ocean, fire works, treasure hunt, and much more. **Other activities (specify):** Bus trip to Hopewell Rock on the Fundy Coast; Recreation Days including mini-golf, basketball, driving range and waterslide; sleigh ride; Christmas parties for consumers and Intervenors in Moncton, Bathurst, Saint John and Fredericton; Board Appreciation Dinner in December.

**Partnerships:** n/a

**Membership recruitment activities (specify):** Building upon last years project of encouraging families to join.

**Chapter incorporation # if incorporated:** 106845175RR0001

**Plans or Goals for the Upcoming Year:** to continue to provide the best possible intervention for our consumers; have our Recreation Brochure translated; to building our 10 unit Curtis Complex and Learning Centre; facilitate an Intervenor and Board Retreat; send parents to the Sense conference in Scotland in August 2008; establish an adaptive physical recreational equipment lending resource library.

## H) NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

**Address & Contact Information:** 803-1660 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS B3J 1U7

**Website and email:** smcconnell@eastlink.ca

**Name of Chapter Representative to National:** Suzanne McConnell

**Name of Executive Director (if any)** N/A

**Chapter of CDBRA** since 2005

**Number of Members:** 10

**Number of Employees:** 0

**Number of Volunteers:** 2

**Board size and Make up:** 11 members our on our Board consisting of 1 consumer, Intervenors and other professionals.

**Types of Services and Programs**

**Intervention Services:** The Intervenor Fund provides supplemental funding for Intervenor services (for camp, classes etc.), technical aids and other support that may be needed by Nova Scotians who are deafblind.

**Awareness:** The NS Chapter celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Deafblind Awareness Week in June , 2008. We set up a display at the local mall and placed posters at different locations.

**Training:** N/A we have no staff at this time

**Fund Raising:** We fund raise with raffles twice a year, selling tickets on pottery made by an artist who is deafblind, collection boxes in stores, donations

**Partnerships:** We would like to thank our partners, Deafness Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia, CNIB, Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians.

**Membership recruitment activities:** We passed out membership applications to our partner organizations, families, and on our brochures handed out at the mall displays during Deafblind Awareness Week.

**Chapter incorporation # if incorporated:** N/A

# AWARDS

## NATIONAL CHERRY BULMER AWARD

This award has been named after Cherry Bulmer in recognition of the passion, enthusiasm and commitment with which she dedicated her time and effort to this organization. It is presented to a volunteer member of the organization who demonstrates that same outstanding passion, enthusiasm and commitment.

**The 2008 recipients of the Cherry Bulmer Award are  
Linda Mamer & Jon van Bilsen**

## THE ANDREW LOVE MEMORIAL “INTERVENOR OF THE YEAR” AWARD

**The 2008 recipient of this award was Kristi Clark. Presenting the award is CDBRA National President and Andrew Love Memorial Trustee Carolyn Monaco.**



## THE CANADIAN DEAFBLIND AND RUBELLA ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FIELD PLACEMENT

This award is presented to a graduating student of the Intervenor Program at George Brown College who consistently demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field placement component of the program. The 2008 recipient of this award was Lisa Jackson. Presenting the award is National Board Member Jon van Bilsen.



## ANDREW LOVE MEMORIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

This award is presented to a graduating student of the Intervenor Program at George Brown College who has demonstrated outstanding ability in working as an Intervenor with a child who is deafblind. The 2008 recipient of this award was Christina Chirila. Presenting the award is National Board member Cheryl Ramey.

