



## Canadian Newsletter August 2010

Greetings to you all:

We're sure that you are interested in hearing about the highlights of May's Centenary Event in Bath. Canada was represented by 14 members and two guests and a wonderful time was had by all, despite some air travel challenges due to the Icelandic volcano.

### Overview

The OB-PS Event in Bath was a wonderful celebration of 100 years of international guiding and scouting with many memorable highlights. OB-PS members celebrated together and remembered over 250 million girls and young women who have changed lives and built a better world over the last 100 years.

The Presentation Ceremony took place at the historic Guildhall where 53 new members were presented. The evening included wonderful musical performances from the Wells Cathedral School. We now have a total of 1030 members worldwide.

The Members' Dinner was held at the beautiful Assembly Rooms and provided the perfect opportunity to recognise our Centenary Supporters and Princess Benedikte Awardees.

## Highlights of the event

### Young women

OB-PS members were able to hear testimonials from young women who have had the opportunity to participate in international events, and to understand the difference this involvement had made to their lives.

The six young women were:

Lizzi Fricker (UK), who attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2010;

Lianne Howard-Dace and Liz Cooke (UK) members of the Young Women's World Forum (YWWF) Planning Group;

Katheri Ann Charcos (Philippines), who attended the Juliette Low Seminar (JLS) in 2006;

Ida Sjöholm (Sweden), who was at the JLS 2008; and

Carla Patiño Carreño (Ecuador), a JLS 2009 participant from Ecuador.

The young women ran workshops about advocacy and leadership, and inspired OB-PS members with stories about how they had made a difference to the lives of girls and young women, through activities as diverse as painting blocks in the slum areas of Kenya, learning how to construct a solar cooker and speaking out at United Nations sessions to encourage governments to meet the commitments they had already pledged in relation to investing in girls and young women.

It was clear each young woman had been empowered to make significant impacts in their own countries.

## **New president and Board**

Participants also welcomed the new OB-PS President, Vibeke Riemer, (Denmark) and Vice President Ginny Radford.

The newly elected board members are: Janette Gibson (Australia), Connie Matsui (USA), Susan Locsin (Philippines), Alison Spurway (UK), Sally Palm (Canada) and Betsy LaMacchia (USA).



## **Celebration of 1000 members**

Vibeke Riemer led members in a celebration of the society reaching its target of 1000 members in February 2010. This is a fantastic achievement and thanks were expressed to everyone for their contribution in making this happen.

## **Charlotte Christ-Weber received the WAGGGS Bronze Medal**

Charlotte Christ-Weber retired as President at this event after completing her five-year term. She has long been involved in Guiding, serving on World Board and national boards. She received the WAGGGS Bronze Medal, recognizing exceptional service to world Girl Guiding/ Girl Scouting, from World Board members Della Salway and Wamuyu Mahinda. In addition, a Charlotte Christ-Weber Scholarship was established in her name, and over £2,000 has already been donated by Board members, coordinators and other OB-PS members. This one-off scholarship will be used to bring one or more young women to the Centenary World Conference, which will take place in July 2011 in the UK.



## **Fundraising Success**

The event witnessed the launch of a new initiative, 'Support a Young Woman', which gives people a flexible way to help provide a leadership training opportunity to girls from across the world.

OB-PS members responded very generously in a variety of ways: some by deciding to join the 'Support a Young Woman' initiative, and others by increasing their membership by £4,000 to become Centenary Supporters.

## **Announcement of Chair of Global Girls Fund**

Kavita Oberoi, the new Chair of the Global Girl's Fund, addressed the members to share her vision for the Fund and how she would like to see it develop to empower girls and young women from all backgrounds so that they can make a difference in their communities. She was presented with the Princess Benedikte Award by the Princess at a reception to celebrate the launch of the Fund in the UK.

The Global Girls Fund will:

- ❖ equip girls and young women with leadership skills
- ❖ grow the global voice of girls and young women and support them in making a difference
- ❖ invest in girls and their communities and enable the development and delivery of global education, training and support

During the next three years of the Centenary Celebrations, the Global Girls Fund, which has a target of £10 million, will be built up from a range of global sources. OB-PS will be one of the routes to achieving that total – so our contributions will continue to be very important.

## Facts about The Olave Baden-Powell Society 2010

- ❖ Board members from 11 countries
- ❖ Over 1030 members in 55 countries
- ❖ 53 new members presented in Bath
- ❖ 22 Centenary Supporters received their certificates
- ❖ 5 members received their Princess Benedikte Awards

## Next Events

OB-PS/World Scout Foundation Joint Event: Netherlands 7 – 10 April 2011

Representatives from Scouting Netherlands attended the event to share details about the programme. The booking pack will be available in the September 2010.

World Conference, 11-15 July 2011 in Edinburgh, Scotland

OB-PS Annual Event: Gold Coast, Australia 30th August – 2nd September 2011

The booking pack will be available in 2011.

## Country Meeting

A short meeting to deal with Canadian concerns was held during our time in Bath.

Congratulations were given to Sally on her election to the OB-PS board.

Bev gave us a financial update. With over \$300 available it was agreed that \$250 should be sent to the OB-PS membership fund and a small amount be kept as petty cash.

We discussed succession planning for country coordinators. Bev and Marjory

agreed to continue in the role of co-coordinators for the time being.

It was felt that a country meeting was not necessary as long as we continue to connect during the year.

An effort will be made to be more visible in Canada especially the connection with the Girl Guides of Canada.

## Annelise

Our Executive Director, Joanne Joyce, has informed us that Annelise Pouliquen has been undergoing chemotherapy and radiation therapy for a recently diagnosed colon cancer. Many of you know Annelise, our OB-PS Administrator, and join with me in wishing her all the best. Her email address for those who might like to get in touch with her is [apouliquen3319@gmail.com](mailto:apouliquen3319@gmail.com) Her postal address is Flat B, 18 Stonor Road, London W14 8RZ

Marjory Patterson, [marjory.patterson@rogers.com](mailto:marjory.patterson@rogers.com)  
Beverley Gordon, [gordon.b@sympatico.ca](mailto:gordon.b@sympatico.ca)  
Please keep us informed of any change of address or contact information.

We did have fun!!

