

The Canadian Academy of Therapeutic Tutors (Orton-Gillingham)

Annual Report

April 24, 2004

The last year has seen the membership of The Canadian Academy of Therapeutic Tutors (Orton-Gillingham), or CATT (O-G) pass the 375 mark. That is an increase from 315 at this time last year. We are pleased to have many members in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. In addition, our membership extends to the north in the Prince George region, west to Vancouver Island, east to the Kootenays, Okanagan, Edmonton, Alberta and Ontario, and finally to Hong Kong, Beijing, Manila and Pakistan.

The board of directors extends deep appreciation to Dee Walmsley our phone coordinator, Bill Martin our office manager, and Lois Sharpe our accountant. They formed our first office team. We are grateful for the patience of our membership as we completed the transition from three part time office positions to one office manager.

We thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to Lauren Ryan. We hope you took the opportunity to meet Lauren today. Lauren has also taken the day-to-day membership operations formerly managed by a board volunteers. Such tasks include the Marilyn Thorpe's clerical membership duties and membership event registration formerly prepared by Joan Villett. These duties had far surpassed the capabilities of volunteers.

Registration and membership renewals have been made easier through our online service provider, Sporg. Greg McKone of Greentree Software has designed our new and improved web site at www.ogtutors.com . Now our programs and events can be found 24 hours a day from anywhere the Internet reaches.

We have continued the CATT (O-G) web page on ldonline (www.ldonline.org) and our listing in resources with the Learning Disabilities Association, Vancouver Chapter and the Directory of Resource People in B.C. both, which are online. Naturally, we retain our Institutional Membership in the International Dyslexia Association or IDA.

We have many members who work hard to keep our lines of communication open. Marilyn Thorpe oversees membership and Joan Villett arranges tutor evaluations and mentoring. It is encouraging to see new members begin to take advantage of the mentoring program.

Corey Zystra and Karen Nyland create, proofread, copy and mail the newsletter. Donna Cole, Shannon Green and Vicki Bale organized the Member –to-Member Development meetings which in turn are presented by members who volunteer to share their experience and expertise. They are intended to showcase the diverse knowledge of our CATT (O-G) members.

The September 19 International Conference, Orton-Gillingham: Effective, Adaptable and Universal was a great success. Special thanks go to Allyn Rodden, facilities coordinator who organized the facilities and all of us, Corey Zystra, silent auction champion and Ron Yoshimoto who initiated the partnership for this project with the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. We would like to thank our sponsors once again: Hotz Consultants, James Cameron School, Fraser Academy, Kenneth Gordon School, Ron Yoshimoto and Lower Mainland Tutoring. Eaton – Coull Learning Group provided their new book, *Stories of Hope*, as gifts to the speakers. Thank you as well to our members and their colleagues. You made it possible.

Our fourth annual Spring Fling will have come and gone by the time you hear this report. True to its origin, it has been special time of year to enjoy interactive, useful teaching techniques, networking with each other and of course, as our motto says, “Lunch with great desserts”. We thank Ron Yoshimoto for coming from Hawaii to join us once again.

This year we will host our second Orton-Gillingham Professional Development Day on Saturday, September 19th. We thank Donna Cole, Shannon Green Allyn Rodden, Maureen Belliveau and the numerous CATT (O-G) members who are working hard on our behalf to make the event a success. We look forward to seeing you all there.

As mentioned last year our development reflects our respect for the pioneering work of the American Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators (AOGPE) and the International Dyslexia Association, British Columbia Branch. Those wishing more detail about our

history might refer to the 2002 Annual Report posted on our web site:
www.ogutors.com.

This morning we participated in welcoming yet another group of members who completed the requirements to graduate from Tutor Associate-interim status to Tutor Associate status. Across the board, our team of supervisors has been impressed with the dedication and commitment we have witnessed in the tutor evaluations. The observation of tutors and students, along with the documented progress and references in each student book, validates the effectiveness of Orton-Gillingham. Questions and comments from the tutors who were evaluated confirmed the thought, caring and consideration that creates a successful learning environment for students entrusted to our care. They have sparked our creativity and renewed our joy in the therapeutic approach to O-G.

For those contemplating an evaluation, we encourage you no matter how nervous you may be, to relax, do what you do best, and enjoy the time with your supervisor. She is there to validate your teaching and offer you her expertise. CATT (O-G) extends our deep appreciation to our tutor supervisors for the time and effort they have extended on our behalf.

CATT (O-G) is fortunate to have Lois Lindsay as our leading tutor-trainer and trainer of trainers. Most of you know that Lois is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators and a Fellow of CATT (O-G). Lois is currently the only person qualified in CATT (O-G) to train O-G trainers.

Lois will be facilitating our CATT (O-G) Multisensory Summer School, July 7-23 at Fraser Academy along with Marilyn Thorpe who will be acting as our summer school supervisor of supervisors for the third year. Sue Wyness and Shannon Green who are completing their training as O-G trainers this summer, will assist Lois. Pat Chapman has volunteered her help to Lois and the summer school team while Michele Henderson and Marilyn Thorpe have taken on the new Training Intake Committee that provided interviews to all those applying to summer school.

Heather Redenbach currently trains O-G tutors who have completed a basic orientation course in the Fraser Academy approach to Orton-Gillingham.

Corey Zystra and Gloria Olafson are currently training O-G tutors with the skills and knowledge they developed under Lois' mentorship. The success of the Surrey O-G training course has led to a partnership with the new Surrey College. We are hoping the fall course will be accredited with British Columbia Private Post Secondary Commission any day now. Special recognition goes to Corey for consistent quality in her training course and to everyone who supervised and mentored the participants at the Surrey course.

In conclusion the CATT (O-G) board of directors offers you our gratitude for the support and encouragement you, our members, have offered us every step of the way through CATT's development from our first meeting on September 29th, 1995, our incorporation as a Society in B.C. on February 5, 1997, to today. It has been a productive nine-year effort. We are looking forward to another great year ahead.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Wardrop

CATT (O-G) Board of Directors, 2004 - 2005

Helen MacDonald, Marilyn Thorpe, Joan Villett,

Lois Lindsay, Irene Storteboom, Marilyn Wardrop,

Janet McKeown and Sue Wyness

CATT (O-G) Committees

Newsletter

Corey Zylstra, Karen Nyland

Professional Development (Member-to-Member)

Donna Cole, Shannon Green, Vicki Bale

Professional Development Day, September 2004

Chairs: Donna Cole and Maureen Belliveau

Committee Members: Shannon Green, Allyn Rodden

Supervisor Committee:

Marilyn Thorpe, Joan Villett, Heather Redenbach, Sue Wyness

O-G Course Intake Committee:

Michele Henderson and Marilyn Thorpe

O-G Multisensory Summer School, 2004

Lois Lindsay, Sue Wyness, Shannon Green

Spring Fling – April 24th, 2004

Ron Yoshimoto

O-G Another Look: Structure, Procedures, Materials, Integration

8:15 – 9:00	Coffee and Registration
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome, Announcements, Certificates
9:30 – 12:00	O-G Another Look
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch with Great Desserts
1:00 – 2:00	O-G Another Look Continued
2:00 – 2:30	CATT (O-G) Annual Meeting
3:00 – 5:00	CATT (O-G) Trainer's Sessions