

The Canadian Academy of Therapeutic Tutors (Orton-Gillingham)

Annual Report

April 23, 2005

2004/2005 has been another year of building for the membership of the Canadian Academy of Therapeutic Tutors (Orton-Gillingham), or CATT (O-G). At our April, 2005 board of directors meeting we welcomed our 415th member. Membership extends north in the Prince George region, west to Vancouver Island, east to the Kootenays, Okanagan, Edmonton, Alberta and Ontario, and overseas to Hong Kong, Beijing, Manila and Pakistan.

The board of directors extends appreciation to Lauren Ryan who serves as our telephone coordinator, part-time office manager, and accountant. Lauren is our office team. We are grateful for the patience of our membership as we completed the transition from three part-time office positions to one part-time office coordinator. Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to Lauren. I hope you took the opportunity to meet Lauren here today.

We have continued with the use and development of our web site www.ogtutors.com hosted and managed by Greg McKone of GreenTree Software and our site at www.ldonline.org.

CATT (O-G) continues to retain our Institutional Membership and support for the International Dyslexia Association and IDABC locally.

We're sure that many organizations would envy the dedication our committee leaders have displayed. They include:

- Marilyn Thorpe oversees **membership**.
- Joan Villett arranges **tutor evaluations**. This volunteer position requires heroic patience as schedules are adjusted to facilitate each evaluation.
- Marilyn Thorpe, Sue Wyness, Joan Villett and Heather Redenbach developed the **Teaching Aid Handbook** for course supervisors now known as Trainer Assistants.
- Marilyn Thorpe and Lois Lindsay form the new Distance **Evaluation Committee** for those members too far away to participate in standard evaluations.
- Corey Zystra creates our **newsletter**. Karen Nyland, proofreads copies and mails the newsletter.
- **Continuing Education** is a cornerstone for CATT (O-G).
We are looking for volunteers to take a look at our continuing education reporting process and make recommendations to the board of directors.
- **Local Tutor Enrichment Meetings** are listed on the events page at www.ogtutors.com They are held in Surrey, Richmond, Coquitlam, Vancouver and North Vancouver.
- **Member to Member Presentations:**
Donna Cole and Maureen Belliveau organized the Member to Member Meeting on January 12th. Special thanks to our members who presented: Shannon Green, Chantal Contorines and Heather Redenbach.

- **Professional Development Committee:**

CATT (O-G) hosted our second Orton-Gillingham Professional Development Day on Saturday, September 18th. We thank Donna Cole, 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 at the next Pro D Day in January 2006. Donna Cole, Maureen Belliveau and Chantal Contorines welcome your help and support for this event.

- Donna Cole is also the organizational and inspirational leader of the **Spring Fling Event**. Our fifth annual Spring Fling will have come and gone by the time you hear this report. True to its origin, it has been a 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 extend special thanks to **Gary Anaka** and Maureen for coming from Nanaimo to teach us to understand how our brains work best and improve our memories.

CATT (O-G) Tutor Training Courses:

- Last year at our AGM we announced a new partnership with Surrey College to deliver or O-G training courses. We thank Sonja Buchanan of Surrey College, Clayton Campus for seeing us through the process of accreditation for our course. Kevin De Boice of Surrey College was instrumental in bringing the idea to reality. Corey Zylstra and the team of supervisors who assisted Corey deserve special recognition for delivering an O-G program in Surrey that was credible, reliable and successful for

both tutors and their practicum students. The next course will be held this summer from Sept.

- Lois Lindsay facilitated the CATT (O-G) **Multisensory Summer School**, July 7-23, 2004 at Fraser Academy along with Marilyn Thorpe who was our summer school supervisor of supervisors for the third year. Sue Wyness and Shannon Green assisted Lois. Pat Chapman volunteered her help to Lois and the summer school team of supervisors.
- Michele Henderson and Marilyn Thorpe developed the new **Training Intake Committee** that provided interviews to all those applying to summer school.
- Sue Wyness and I presented an **Orton-Gillingham Overview Workshop** to Special Education Graduate students at the University of Victoria on March 23. This led to a project with Dr. Jillian Roberts to develop a CATT (O-G) training course this August 9 – 26 at the Cathedral School in Victoria. We are hoping that with sufficient enrollment we will be able to establish a well trained group of Orton-Gillingham tutors in Victoria.
- The process location **for tutor evaluations** will be changing soon as the demand is greater than the time available to meet with each tutor and student individually.

For the founding directors of the academy here today, it's hard to believe that it has been ten years since the idea of certification and the Canadian Academy of Therapeutic Tutors (Orton-Gillingham) first began to take shape. We have tried to stay true to our goal of representing the legitimate interests of Orton – Gillingham tutors with a focus on current concerns and progressive initiatives. We do not consider CATT (O-G) a completed entity. We do believe it has a good foundation of policies, programs, standards and most importantly people to continue its growth and development. We welcome our members to join us in looking forward to another interesting year in 20052006.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Wardrop

For the board of directors: *Helen MacDonald, Janet Mc Keown, Irene Storteboom, Marilyn Thorpe, Sue Wyness, Joan Villett, and Lois Lindsay.*

The membership of CATT (O-G) offers a sincere thank you to Helen MacDonald and Janet McKeown for their encouragement and perseverance during their service on the board of directors.

CATT (O-G) Board of Directors, 2005 – 2006

Marilyn Thorpe and Lois Lindsay Nominating Committee Chairs

Board of Directors

Marilyn Thorpe, Joan Villett,
Pam Brun, Michele Henderson,
Sue Wyness, Irene Storteboom,
Lois Lindsay, Marilyn Wardrop

Committees:

Newsletter

Corey Zylstra, Karen Nyland

Professional Development (Member-to-Member/ Pro D Day)

Donna Cole, Maureen Belliveau, Chantal Contorines

Supervisor Committee

Marilyn Thorpe and Joan Villett

Distance Evaluations

Lois Lindsay and Marilyn Thorpe

Continuing Education Standards

Donna Cole, Bronwyn Brown,
Shannon Green, Corey Zylstra