

# **The Canadian Academy of Therapeutic Tutors (Orton-Gillingham)**

## **Annual Report**

**April 22, 2006**

The first meeting of the Canadian Academy was held on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1996. The first certificates were awarded on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1997. The founding board of directors worked diligently to create a professional organization that would support the pioneering work in Orton-Gillingham established by the International Dyslexia Association and the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. The purpose and goals of CATT (O-G) do just that.

April 22, 2006 brings us to another milestone in our development. After many meetings and discussions over time, the CATT (O-G) board of directors unanimously approved a December 6, 2005 motion for an affiliation with the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators (AOGPE). April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 affiliation was approved unanimously by the AOGPE board. Terms of the affiliation are as follows:

- 1) Two independent organizations that are affiliated for mutual benefit
- 2) A sharing of newsletters, conferences, workshops, and an exploration of the process for sharing website information
- 3) Cross training, sharing of ideas, and joint conferences as feasible
- 4) Invitation to CATT members to AOGPE Social Gathering at IDA conferences
- 5) Invitation to Heads of CATT OG Schools to AOGPE meeting for Heads of Accredited Schools held at IDA conference

6) Develop over time, joint committees working on common issues

It is our sincere hope that this affiliation will do even more to strengthen our organization and its goals.

The first proposed project is an MSL (Multisensory Structured Language and Multisensory Math) Conference on March 10, 2007 in Hawaii. The project's aim is to bring the expertise and experience of O-G practitioners from the American Academy, CATT (O-G), Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS), a parent group (SPIN) and the District of Education in Hawaii.

On February 2006 CATT (O-G) welcomed member number 458. Although the bulk of our membership is in the Lower Mainland of B.C, it also extends north in the Prince George region, west to Vancouver Island, east to the Kootenays, Okanagan, Edmonton, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and overseas to Hong Kong, Manila and Pakistan.

The board of directors once again extends appreciation to Laureen Ryan who serves as our telephone coordinator, part-time office manager, and accountant. Laureen is our office team. I hope you took the opportunity to meet Laureen or say hello here today.

We have continued with the use and development of our web site [www.ogtutors.com](http://www.ogtutors.com) hosted and managed by Greg McKone of GreenTree Software and our site at [www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org) .

CATT (O-G) continues to retain our Institutional Membership and support for the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) 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.
- Corey Zylstra creates our **newsletter**. Karen Nyland, proofreads copies and mails the newsletter.
- **Continuing Education** is a cornerstone for CATT (O-G). Shannon Green, Donna Cole, Corey Zylstra and Bronwyn Brown took on the task of reviewing and improving our renewal forms and continuing education requirements.
- **Local Tutor Enrichment Meetings** are listed on the events page at [www.ogtutors.com](http://www.ogtutors.com) . These groups are coordinated and facilitated by volunteers willing and eager to share skills, materials and ideas that support the growth and development of their fellow tutors. We extend our thanks on behalf of the board of directors for the commitment of the Surrey, Richmond, Coquitlam, Vancouver and North Vancouver tutor support groups.
- **Member to Member Presentations:**  
Donna Cole, Chantal Contorines and Maureen Belliveau organized the Member to Member Meeting on October 12, 2005. Laureen Ryan quickly

re-arranged our facilities and notified members when a strike prevented the use of our usual venue. Special thanks to our members who presented: Allyn Rodden, Joan Villett, Shannon Green, Corey Zylstra and Marilyn Wardrop.

- **Professional Development Committee:**

CATT (O-G) hosted our third Orton-Gillingham Professional Development Day on Saturday, January 21, 2006. We thank Lauren Ryan, committee members Donna Cole, Maureen Belliveau, Chantal Contorines and the numerous CATT (O-G) members who worked hard on our behalf to make the event a success. We're grateful for the time and effort expended by the presenters: Gloria Olafson, Stephanie Lindstrom, Heather Redenbach, Sue Wyness and Corey Zylstra.

- Donna Cole is also the organizational and inspirational coordinator for the **Spring Fling Event**. Our sixth 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 once again coming from Nanaimo to teach us to understand how our brains work best and how to keep them healthy. The volunteers from Coast Capital Savings were here for the second time to make the event run smoothly. We are fortunate that they have found us a worthy association to give so their time to so generously.

### **CATT (O-G) Tutor Training Courses:**

- This is our third year of our partnership with Surrey College to deliver Orton –Gillingham tutor training courses. We thank Sonja Buchanan of Surrey College, Clayton Campus for supporting us through the process of accreditation with PCTIA. Special appreciation is extended to CATT Fellow, Lois Lindsay, who developed the Orton-Gillingham Total Language Hour which is the foundation of our O-G training courses. Corey Zylstra and the team of supervisors who assisted her deserve special recognition for delivering an O-G program in Surrey that is credible, reliable and successful for both tutors and their practicum students. The next course will be held this summer July 4-21<sup>st</sup>. We hope to run two O-G courses concurrently with Corey Zylstra and Shannon Green each facilitating one course. The previous year saw the following training courses in Surrey:
  - Corey Zylstra and Shannon Green co-facilitated **Multisensory Summer School**, July 5-22, 2005. Lois Lindsay facilitated **Multisensory Summer School**, August 9 – 26<sup>th</sup> with Marilyn Thorpe supervising and Sue Wyness assisting. We thank the trainer aids who participated throughout the year and shared their empathy and skills with the new O-G trainees.
  - An O-G course is planned for August 8 – 25, 2006 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.
  - Corey Zylstra facilitated the fall course, September 17 – December 10 and winter January 11- March 18, 2006.

### **Other Events:**

- Surrey College now sponsors interview and overview evenings three times per year for individuals who are interested in O-G training.
- Sue Wyness and Marilyn Wardrop presented a full day **Orton-Gillingham Overview Workshop** for the University of Victoria (U Vic), Continuing Studies in Education on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005, and Pacific Academy on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by a one day Multisensory Math Workshop on February 17, 2006 at U Vic. with Marilyn Wardrop and Donna Cole facilitating.

### **American Academy Conference:**

- Two CATT (O-G) members attended and presented at the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators conference in Boston April 8, 2006. Corey Zylstra presented Games and Marilyn Wardrop Multisensory Math.

Year after year, we believe we have made good progress in meeting the original purpose of CATT (O-G) which is:

- to establish an academy for O-G Therapeutic Tutors.
- to develop a code of standards and ethics.
- to provide professional guidelines.
- to enhance professional development and educational opportunities within the field of services to individuals with a specific Language/ Learning Difference (Dyslexia).

We need and welcome your help to continue our steady growth and development. Every contribution no matter how small makes a difference.

We welcome our members to join us in looking forward to another interesting year in 2006/2007.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marilyn Wardrop*

**CATT (O-G) Board of Directors, 2006 – 2007**

Sue Wyness and Joan Villett 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, Tammie Aeberhardt

**Supervisor Committee**

Marilyn Thorpe and Joan Villett

**Distance Evaluations**

Michele Henderson

**Public Relations Committee**

Maureen Belliveau

**Publications – Communication**

Lois Lindsay

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Dr. Patrice Dunn

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