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NEWS

Ontario Conference Membership Reaches Thirty Thousand Mark
There are now over 30,000 Seventh-day Adventists living in Ontario, Canada. The actual figure of 30,102 members was presented to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on April 29, 2012, by Dr. Daniel Linrud, executive secretary, as part of his quarterly statistical report.

“We’re very excited that we’ve finally reached this mile-maker for our conference,” he told the board members. “It keeps us firmly placed as the thirteenth largest conference in the North American Division. However, in the near future, we look forward to overtaking those immediately above us, as God blesses our efforts to win souls for Him in Ontario.”

Linrud told them that the figure had been reached during the first quarter of 2012 and that it represented a 2.63% increase over the same period last year.

Dr. Mansfield Edwards, conference president, was quick to commend the efforts of church members and their pastors whose work resulted in the new membership total.

“We are blessed with some members who are very committed to evangelism,” he said. “They work side by side with their pastors to ensure that God’s kingdom is being proclaimed. I am personally thankful to God for them and for their untiring labour. Can you just imagine what could be achieved in Ontario if more of our members were doing this?”

According to Church Growth co-ordinator, Dr. Errol Lawrence, the 30,000 figure had been eluding the conference for over a year, but attaining it will serve as a motivation for every church in the conference to feature baptismal services as a regular feature in the life of the church.

The report also stated that there are now 120 organised churches, 19 companies and 13 branch Sabbath Schools (Groups) in the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

**Summit Addresses Declining Sabbath School Attendance in Ontario**

*Oshawa, Ontario, May 8, 2012...OCN*

During May 4-5, 2012, ninety Sabbath School personnel and two pastors from 34 churches across Ontario met at the Westin Prince Hotel, Toronto, for a summit addressing the issue of declining Sabbath School attendance in Ontario.

The summit was the result of Pastor Theodore Sargeant’s determination to discover the cause why, in his words, “Sabbath School attendance is falling like a rock”.

“We wanted to pool our collective knowledge not just to determine the cause,” said Sargeant, “but what we can do to turn things around.”

Before the attendees were able to address those questions, however, Elders Delbert Pearman, director of planning for Adventist Missions at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; J Alfred Johnson II, Adult Ministries director, NAD; Monte Sahlin, director of Research and Development Department of the Ohio Conference, and Theodore Sargeant explored key areas of the Sabbath School.
Pearman ignited a keen interest in missions as he testified of God’s miracles around the world. Johnson revealed the evangelistic purpose of Sabbath School and showed how churches can grow through Sabbath School classes. Sahlin reported on successful Sabbath Schools around the world and identified some non-traditional approaches that are being used. He even predicted that some of the new approaches will change the concept of church. Sargeant, with the assistance of Pastor Ben Adap and Teresa VanWart, considered and demonstrated three approaches to facilitating the Sabbath School. However, many attendees were longing to share their opinions about declining Sabbath School attendance. This, they were able to do in a two-hour session facilitated by Halsey Peat, Ontario Conference Communication and PARL director.

Peat divided the participants into groups and asked them to investigate and respond to three questions:
1. What do you identify as the cause of declining Sabbath School attendance in Ontario?
2. What successful measures have been taken in your local church to stop the decline?
3. What other measures do you think could be successful to improve Sabbath School?

Among numerous causes identified by the groups are:
1. Predictability, routine.
2. Sabbath School classes do not take members’ learning style into consideration.
4. Sabbath School begins too early, especially for families with young children. Members do not live close to church.
5. Sabbath School not relevant to lives of people--needs are not being met.
6. Pastors and other leaders not supporting Sabbath School (arriving late, not present, do not promote nor speak about its value)

Participants also shared what was working for their churches. Common to many of the responses was the success achieved through building personal relationships. Whether it was the organisation of the Sabbath School into small groups that operated as social and physical support systems, it was found that these gave members a greater sense of belonging. Others made use of internet technology to keep in touch, during the week raise questions relating to the lesson study, or simply to encourage attendance and participation. Some leaders spoke of how they intentionally involve participation in Sabbath School of those who either attend late or not at all.

Another church provided breakfast. Others found that when they engaged in regular teacher improvement, it eventually had a positive effect on members’ satisfaction and hence attendance.

As the groups engaged in finding solutions, it soon became clear that the summit had only just begun its work. Pastor Sargeant indicated that the findings will be collated and distributed to all churches. He encouraged all the leaders to seek creative and relevant ways so that Sabbath School will resume its true identity as the ‘Heart of the Church’.

**Religious Freedom Festival in Indonesia Recognizes Government, Faith Leaders**

*May 15, 2012 Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, Gay Tuballes-Deles/ANN staff*

A recent festival of religious freedom cements the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Indonesia as a leading proponent of free expression of religion in the country.
Some 2,000 people gathered at the Aula Mapalus Kantor Gubernur Sulawesi Utara auditorium in Manado on May 5 to recognize the combined efforts of government and faith groups in preserving freedom of belief in the Southeast Asian country.

Interest in religious liberty has grown in Indonesia since the Adventist Church first held a festival of religious freedom in Jakarta two years ago, church religious liberty advocates said.

Faith representatives at this month’s festival commended the Adventist Church for organizing a festival that offers appreciation to government and faith leaders who advocate free expression of religious belief.

“We thank the Seventh-day Adventist Church for leading out in expressing our thanks to God and to the government for the religious freedom that we are enjoying in Indonesia, particularly here in North Sulawesi,” said J. Pangaila, leader of the Pentecostal Church in Indonesia.

Deputy Governor of North Sulawesi Roy Roring echoed Pangaila’s appreciation.

Muslim leader Tamzil Permata said, “We are committed to live peacefully together, Christians and non-Christians alike.”

Holding a public event organized by the Adventist Church demonstrated the positive relationship the church has promoted among faith groups in Manado, said East Indonesia Union Conference President Noldy Sakul, who organized the festival. Religious groups represented at the event included Hinduism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity.

Indonesia is a predominantly Muslim country with a Protestant Christian population of 6 percent. In 2006, reports of violence between faith communities surfaced, including the vandalism of church property and forcible closure of churches.

Since then, the Indonesian government has made “positive efforts to unite religious groups and foster and attitude of toleration and respect,” according to the Religious Freedom World Report. The publication, released by the Adventist world church’s department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, also notes that “fanaticism” and “deep-rooted violence” remain.

“You may not be affected today as you still enjoy [religious] freedom, but tomorrow it may not be the same story,” PARL director John Graz told the audience in Manado. He added that religious freedom is essential to “peace, unity and prosperity for the people of Indonesia and the government.”

Source: Adventist News Network

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 12-May 19
"Salvation in the Sanctuary"

Woodbridge Church invites you to attend the Salvation in the Sanctuary evangelistic seminar revival with guest speaker, Dr. Dwight E. Haynes. After 11 years of drugs, crime and incarceration, the Lord took this thug and turned him into a theologian. From dealing cocaine to Christ. Every night Sunday - Friday at 7:00 p.m. also on
Sabbath at 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Come and bring your family and friends.
Location: 8090 Kipling Avenue at the Woodbridge United Church (north of Highway 7)
Telephone 416-839-1692 or 289-280-2499

May 24-27
59th Crawford Adventist Academy Homecoming Alumni Weekend

Our 59th Crawford Adventist Academy Homecoming Alumni Weekend will be held on May 24, 26 & 27, 2012. Honoured classes are Classes of 2002, 1997, 1992, 1987 and 1982; TJA Classes of 1977, 1972, 1967 and 1962. ‘Fashion Builds’, an alumni-driven event in support of the new school initiative will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2012; Alumni Sabbath followed by an evening Alumni Reunion Concert on Saturday, May 26, 2012; the 4th Annual Vernon Langdon Golf Classic, Richmond Hill Golf Club, and the 7th Annual Walk ‘n Roll 4Education will be held on Sunday, May 27, 2012. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please contact Derrick Hall, VP of Advancement, Toll-free 866.960.2125 Ext. 234, dhall@tadsb.com; or Judy Cardona-Gamez, ext. 248, jgamez@tadsb.com Visit our official website www.tadsb.com

May 26
Ontario Prison Ministry

The Ontario Prison Ministry of Seventh-day Adventists is having its 16th Annual Prison Ministry Convocation Day at Apple Creek Church. All volunteers are asked to support the convocation.

May 27
North York Area Community Services Teams

For those in the North York area, the Community Services team of the Filipino-Canadian Church you May 27, 9:30 a.m. for community clean up drive in partnership with other community agencies in North York. Area to be covered is along Bathurst St. from Steeles Avenue to Wilson St.

For more information, please contact Pearlie Cada at filcansda@gmail.com or call 647-799-0824.

May 31
College Park Elementary School’s Fun Fair

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our CPES Fun Fair on Thursday, May 31, 4:00-6:30 p.m. We will have games, food & refreshments, draws and a silent auction with some great items to bid on. This will be an event you won't want to miss. There will be something for everyone to enjoy, so bring your family and friends.

This year's Fun Fair is sponsored by the HSA and each class will be participating. Parent volunteers are needed, so if you would like to help your child's class, please contact the teacher to find out what you can do to help make this fundraiser a success.
IMPORTANT!!!! AFTER SCHOOL CARE: This program will not be available on Thursday, May 31 due to the Fun Fair event. Parents, please make other arrangements for child care on that date.

Students in all grades are not to be left at school unless they are assisting their teacher or a parent is present with them. If bus students do not have a parent or a guardian present they will be sent home on the bus.

June 8-10
Children’s Day at Ottawa East

For this year's Children’s Day, we will be hosting a full weekend of power-packed sessions designed especially for children and youths in our church and the community from June 8th to 10th, 2012. Our host will be international speaker and author, Neals Chitan, and the theme is entitled "BATTLE FOR THE MIND".

June 15, 16, and 17
Christian Retreat

This Christian retreat, sponsored by Timmins and Haileybury Churches, will take place at Camp Bickell, situated among the white birches on beautiful pristine Chapman Lake 55 kilometres from Schumacher, (Timmins) Ontario. Cabins and camping available Men’s and women’s dorms with shower facilities and much more.

Cost of accommodations is $50.00 for weekend. No charge for children 12 and under. Meals are $6.00/meal & no charge for children 6 and under.

For registration and information, please call: Leona Selman 705-642-3838 or email selman@ntl.sympatico.ca

August 11
Brampton Church Homecoming Event

Having realized that former members and visitors to our local congregation may have spread across the larger Ontario region, we invite all such persons to our homecoming event on August 11, 2012.

The Brampton Seventh-day Adventist church welcomes you and looks forward to this joyous Sabbath reunion!

Homecoming event will be held at our local church: 37 Millstone Drive, Brampton, Ontario.

August 24-25
Richmond Hill’s 50th Anniversary

Richmond Hill Church will be celebrating its 50th anniversary - August 24 & 25 2012. All former members, pastors, family & friends are invited to join us for vespers Friday evening, Sabbath services, fellowship lunch, followed by a special afternoon musical program and a walk down memory lane power point presentation. For more information, visit our website at www.rhsda.ca.

September 28-30
Seniors’ Wellness Retreat 2012
Delta Toronto East Hotel
2035 Kennedy Road (Hwy. 401 & Kennedy), Toronto

Coming soon…registration forms available from your local church.
“Register early as hotel rooms are limited and available on a first come first serve basis.”

OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITY

Camp Frenda is looking for a motivated individual to join our team and make this camp season a success!

Maintaining high quality standards, the Housekeeping and Cafeteria Services Assistant Director will assist in food preparation, serving, and clean-up of the kitchen, and will assist in housekeeping duties, such as cleaning guest rooms and public areas and laundry.

The successful candidate will:
• Possess relevant experience in cooking and housekeeping
• Have a current Food Handlers Certificate
• Have a current Hazardous Chemical Safety Certificate
• Have current CPR and First Aid Training
• Have excellent organization and time management skills
• Exhibit an eye for detail
• Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills
• Have the ability to work in a team or independently
• Be willing to work long hours.

To apply for this position, please email your cover letter and résumé to Julianna M. Kapusi at jkapusi@adventistontario.org by June 3, 2012.

Thank you for your interest. Only successful candidates will be contacted for interview.

Windsor Adventist Elementary School

We are looking for a teaching principal who wants to lead students to Jesus, who is committed to helping students experience their best academically and socially, and are able to implement multiple strategies of instruction and assessment. Experience in French and music would be an asset. Successful candidates for the above position will have the following:
• Denominational and/or provincial certification.
• Administrators’ certificate preferred.
• A passion for teaching, and a love for students.
• Commitment to Adventist education by example.
• Excellent communication skills.
• Experience in teaching students of varying abilities.
• Excellent administrative and classroom management skills.
• A commitment to offering an academic program with high expectations yet be able to address the needs of all students.
• A firm commitment as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
• The ability to work effectively with staff.
• A thorough knowledge of their discipline(s).
• Documented ability to work legally in Canada.

An updated resume, along with three letters of reference, can be emailed to Janice Maitland, Superintendent of Education, at jmaitland@adventistontario.org.

**TADSB Enrollment – 2012/2013**

The Toronto Adventist District School Board is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year: CAA (Main Campus), Peel Adventist School and Crawford East. Early bird discounts, scholarships and financial assistance are available. There is an additional 5% discount for new Junior/Senior Kindergarten students who are registered by the end of June 29, 2012. Please contact the Principal's Office for registration information: Crawford Adventist Academy (High School) – Mr. A. Thomas (416) 633-0090, Ext. 223; (JK-8) Mrs. J. Burgin-Hall Ext. 227; Crawford East – Ms. W.Hutchinson, (905) 839-0849; Peel Adventist School – Mr. L. Hild, (905) 459-0500. CAA Admissions Testing for students entering Grades 2-9 will convene on May 6, 2012 at 9:15 am. Please call Mrs. J. Burgin-Hall to confirm.

**CYSA Women's Netball League** is recruiting churches for the 2012 netball season. Come join the FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FITNESS. Please contact Segrid McPhie at cysa@live.ca

**Donor Relations Manager at ADRA Canada**

Imagine using your successful fundraising and relationship building skills to create opportunities for those in poverty--transforming their world!

ADRA Canada seeks a highly-experienced Donor Relations Manager responsible for the continuous enrichment and implementation of a donor relationship, annual fundraising and planned giving strategy that links the resources of individuals in Canada to the needs of those in poverty and distress.

To apply, send resume and cover letter outlining how your skills and talent match those required for this position and why you’re particularly interested in being part of the ministry of ADRA to PR@adra.ca. Full job description available at www.adra.ca

**West Park Manor Personal Care Home (Winnipeg, MB)**, a 150-bed facility, is seeking a Chief Accountant. Qualifications: B.Sc. Commerce degree-accounting major, 6 yrs. experience in related field, strong organization and computer skills. Salary includes full benefit package. For more info. contact Ruben Wollmann, CEO at 204-889-3330. Forward resume to rwollwpm@mymts.net by April 1, 2012.

**West Park Manor Personal Care Home (Winnipeg, MB)**, is seeking a director of Resident Care Services. Qualifications: current registration with the CRNM, BSc. nursing degree, 3 years’ experience in management and geriatric nursing. Competitive salary includes full benefit package. For more info., contact Ruben Wollmann, CEO at 204-889-3330. Forward resume to rwollwpm@mymts.net by April 8, 2012.

**Student Volunteers Available:** Several young adults are looking for volunteer opportunities to serve in local churches this summer. If your church is interested in having one or more of these dynamic, spiritual-lead young men and women assist or lead out in summer ministries, contact Pastor Cyril Millett in the Youth Ministries Department at 905-571-1022 (ext. 214).
Brantford Church Is Looking for a Small Podium

The Brantford Church is looking for a small podium to be used for placing a guest book on Sabbath mornings. If you have something to donate, please contact Pastor Darryl Blahovich at dblahovich@adventistontario.org.

Position Available at CUC

Canadian University College is expanding its physical education program, athletic offerings, and leisure activities. Our immediate goal is to develop a Bachelor of Education secondary specialization in Physical Education. Thus, we need an additional faculty member to assist in this initiative as well as the growth and development of the current program. For further information, visit our website at www.cauc.ca/humanresources/jobs or contact Dr. Joy Fehr at 403.782.3381, x4031.

Hamilton East Church is looking for these members:

Chatham Church in Ontario is looking for information regarding the following individuals. If you have any information regarding these persons, please contact Pastor Dirk Zinner c/o 20 Croydon St., Chatham, On N7L 1L3 or email: dzinner@adventistontario.org.


Thunder Bay Church is looking for these members:
Gerald Osmond Burton - Marie-Eve Duval, and Maria Cecilia Manusoc.

If you have any information, please contact Pastor Jim Rieder at: 807-983-2659 or jrieder@tbaytel.net

Please send articles in plain text (no graphics or photos) to OCN@AdventistOntario.org (No later than Tuesday evening)

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