

chas communiqué

VOL. 27 No.4 OCT/NOV/DEC 2011

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The Grace of Age

What a fitting title for the 68th Annual Convention of CHAS! From the moment I became aware of the invitation to our community, I thought “What an opportunity to revisit Saskatchewan and touch into an earlier time in my life.” I was an enthusiastic young nurse when I caught my first glimpse of the prairies, literally, as I stepped off the train in Whitewood, and began my work in Esterhazy.

It was quite an eye opener when dealing with my first new mother and baby and inquiries into who would



Sr. Mary Buckley

be the scrub nurse, the circulating nurse and the nursery nurse which all yielded the same response, “You are!”

So I quickly learned that nursing in a small rural hospital was more multi-skilled and less specialized than the moderately sized hospital I had left behind. I loved the

challenge and the opportunity to find creative solutions to everyday situations.

Working in Esterhazy gave me an appreciation for the work ethic of farmers who finished their day of harvesting before attending to their injuries, some of which were quite serious. And it taught me something about the reality of spending whole days underground in the mining industry. What amazing examples of adapting to one’s reality and finding life and health in the midst of what could be and often were challenging circumstances.

Attending the CHAS convention allowed me to

review those experiences and to be renewed in the exercise. The Grace of Age was particularly apt as I am very much involved with members of my community who are dealing with the ‘letting go’ and ‘letting come’ themes of aging. Hearing the stories of each founding congregation and being among them spoke volumes to me of the life cycle of a community. In my early thirties, I arrived in Saskatchewan and attended Catholic health conventions where religious were the main participants and a lay person was the exception. On this occasion, I was struck by the fact that we religious were the elders in the room and we were surrounded by passionate and energetic young (and young at heart) lay people ready to move forward with new vision.

When I returned to Ontario, I heard myself saying repeatedly that the whole event was classy. The homey touches that welcomed us, the weaving of our congregational stories into the whole convention, the choice and expertise of the speakers all spoke of great care for the people we serve in health care and it spoke of CHAS’s regard for the legacy of those who preceded the present members.

Besides bringing home new insights, I also carried with me a deep gratitude for the hospitality by CHAS Board and Staff and the opportunity to share in this event. The bouquets and corsages have since dried and the music of the Best Buddies Blues Band has faded but the memories are vivid. Isn’t that what happens with the grace of age? Thanks for a memorable return to Saskatchewan and the wonderful witness you are!

- submitted by Mary Buckley, gsic



Being Touched by Grace

The Grace of Age was the theme of the 68th Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) convention held Oct. 24 and 25 in Moose Jaw. More than 180 delegates from across the province gathered to receive spiritual enrichment, professional affirmation and the opportunity to be engaged in how all play a significant role in the “grace of age.”

Keynote speakers provided a wellspring of perspective and challenge about how we perceive aging, how many of our stereotypes are socially constructed and the unique challenges related to aging in this time and place. Five workshops were also featured during the convention, addressing a range of issues and resources.

Throughout the convention, delegates listened to vignettes describing the work and ministry of eight founding religious congregations no longer active in Catholic health in the province.

Highlighted this year were the Sisters of St. Martha, Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Pembroke, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough, Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Daughters of Wisdom, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, Sisters of Providence of Vincent DePaul, and Sisters of Providence of Montreal.

As a tribute to their many years of service and ministry, bouquets and thanks were offered at the banquet and awards ceremony to 13 sisters representing their respective congregation.



L to R: Sr. Constance Lacroix, Sr. Sheila Brady, Sr. Elenora Baier, Sr. Susan Pye, Sr. Aline Leduc, Sr. Brendalee Boisvert, Sr. Delores Sogz, Sr. Justina Graham, Sr. Sandra Boyer, Sr. Mary Buckley, Sr. Donata Rolheiser, Sr. Anne Collins, Sr. Rose Ketchum.

Another exciting presentation included the welcoming of Samaritan Place as our newest institutional member. Chris Boychuk, as the incoming CHAS Chair, noted the significance, as there has not been a new Catholic facility founded or built in Saskatchewan since 1969!

Samaritan Place is a 100-suite home for those requiring long-term care services in Saskatoon that is scheduled to

open in January 2012. Under the direction of Amicus Health Care Inc., a not-for-profit corporation and subsidiary of the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan, this new, innovative pilot project has been developed in partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, and Saskatoon Health Region. Receiving the Certificate of Institutional Membership that evening was Juanita Tremeer, Executive Director of Samaritan Place and Brenda FitzGerald, Interim CEO of Amicus Health Inc.



L to R: Chris Boychuk, Juanita Tremeer & Brenda FitzGerald

Congratulations to Maureen Preston who was this year's recipient of an Honorary Membership to CHAS. Maureen took her nursing training at Kelsey Institute in Saskatoon some 35 years ago, and began her career working in pediatrics as well as the ER at St. Paul's Hospital. She was elected to the CHAS Board in 1992, and served for six years on various committees, with the 1994 - 95 year being her presidency. During this time, she also served on the Board of the Catholic Health Council, which many will recall as a time of much travel between Saskatoon and the facilities at Ile a la Crosse and La Loche. After this, she returned to school to complete her nursing degree, and has since become an educator, serving in the capacity of Clinical Coordinator for Medicine/Nephrology at St. Paul's. Congratulations Maureen!



Brian Zimmer and Maureen Preston

The second day of the convention included a Spiritual Care Breakfast which provided the opportunity for delegates to learn more about Spiritual Care Saskatchewan, a professional association of spiritual care practitioners comprised of employee chaplains and faith-based chaplains. Their mission is to promote and regulate spiritual care as a clinical discipline. As an integral member of a patient's care team, a spiritual care worker responds to patients, residents, clients and families by assisting people to cope with crisis and suffering and to help discern meaning in the midst of a crisis.

The convention concluded with a celebration of the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick ceremony. Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen was the main presider. Parish priests of Moose Jaw also came to concelebrate. Music ministry was provided by Bobby Williston and his Grade Eight class from Sacred Heart School in Moose Jaw.

Compassionate Healers Masses Held Across Province

The Compassionate Healer's Mass was held this fall throughout the province, namely in Prince Albert on September 13th, in Saskatoon on September 21st and in Regina on October 12th. The annual mass is offered for the benefit and intentions of medical personnel, health care workers and administrators, parish nurses, men and women religious in health care ministry, and ministry of care volunteers in parishes and in health care facilities across the province. "The Compassionate Healers mass allows us to focus on the healing ministry of Christ and it strengthens our vision to be a faith community sharing in this healing ministry," said CHAS executive director Sandra Kary. "We recognize that each role is important, knowing that through Christ's touch we in turn reach out to our neighbour to bring healing of body, mind and spirit."

This year in Saskatoon, the Compassionate Healer's Mass celebrated a *Ritual of Commissioning of Caregivers* whereby those attending the mass were called in their faith to deepen their commitment to the mission of the Church and invited to come forward to have their hands anointed as a sign of their resolve to live more fully as a 'healer' - a source of God's presence in the community. With hands extended, the celebrant anoints their hands asking: "Will you go forth into the community to be the presence of Christ?" to which each responded, "I will." The Compassionate Healer's Mass is an annual celebration for the past five years in Prince Albert and the last six years in Saskatoon and Regina.

2011 Moola-Freer Palliative Care Award

The 2011 recipient of the Moola-Freer Award for excellence in Palliative Care is Dr. Intheran Pillay. Dr. Pillay comes originally from Port Elizabeth in South Africa. It is said, that upon arrival for his appointment of physician in 1993 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Gravelbourg, the luggage got lost and therefore he made his first appearance and impression wearing a Mickey Mouse T-shirt!

By 1995, Dr. Pillay became Chief of Medical Staff. Currently, he is on the Board of the Saskatchewan Medical Association. Dr. Pillay delivers high quality end of life care and works with all members of the care team. His care team appreciates to learn from him, stating that, "he is always willing to stop and teach and answer questions staff may have."

His love and expertise of teaching is evident when he precepts and mentors medical students from the University of Saskatchewan. He is an educator and students have expressed that he is a role model physician and have learned much from him.



Dr. Intheran Pillay

Dr. Pillay is noted as a very dedicated physician who treats each and every one of his patients with compassion, respect, and dignity. He supports family members by taking time to listen, to be present and encourages discussion. His expertise in palliative care improves the quality of life of the patient.

2011 CHAS Mission Award

The CHAS Mission Award serves to honor an individual who has provided leadership in the work of Catholic Health Care Ministry, exemplifies the Vision, Mission and Values of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan, has made a particular contribution to Catholic Health Care in the province, and is recognized by their peers as worthy of the award. Janet Loisel is this year's recipient.

Loiselle has invested over twenty years of dedicated service to the people in her community of Gravelbourg, the last twelve years as Director of Spiritual Care/Mission/Ethics at St. Joseph's Hospital /Foyer d'Youville. She exemplifies in her every day actions the mission that the Grey Nuns left for us to continue. Loiselle reflected on how her time with the sisters created a deep inner awareness,



Janet Loisel and Brian Martin

"In my years working with the Grey Nuns and observing how they offered and cared for the terminally ill and the dying, I always felt this call. However, it took me awhile to respond

with a 'yes'... that 'yes' I could do this! As I reflected on my life history, I believe Spiritual Care was instilled within me at a very young age."

Staff as well as members of the community expressed very openly how Loiselle "lives the mission by her everyday actions and leading by example.

She knows how to look for the face of Jesus in all whom she meets and tries to teach us all how to accomplish this. We are truly blessed to have Janet as part of our community."

2011 marks the sixth year of this annual Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan Mission Award.

Welcome to Greg Hoffort



The Board of St. Joseph's Hospital of Estevan announced the appointment of Greg Hoffort as their new Executive Director of St. Joseph's Hospital effective October 1, 2011.

Greg is a long-time Estevan resident and until October 1st, 2011 served as the Administrator of the Rural Municipality of Estevan No. 5. Greg is no stranger to St. Joseph's Hospital. Greg served as the Director of Systems, Lifeline and Administrative Assistant of St. Joseph's Hospital from 1990-1996. Greg also served as the Executive Director of St. Joseph's Foundation from 1994-1996. He was the Commissioning and Equipment Coordinator for St. Joseph's during the building of the present facility from 1989-1990.

CHAS would like to welcome Greg to his new position and wishes him and his staff all the best as they aim to provide excellent health care for residents in and around their community.

2011-12 CHAS Board & Staff

We are pleased to introduce our 2011-12 CHAS Board and Staff:

Back row, L to R: Shirley McNeil (Vice-President, Saskatoon); Fenton Yeo (Macklin); Brian Martin (Vice-Chair, PA); Chris Boychuk (President, Saskatoon); Brian Zimmer (Saskatoon); Peter Martens (Saskatoon); Bert Yakichuk (Regina), Bonnie Thiele Hunt (Regina)

Front Row: Sandra Kary (Executive Director), Colleen Loewen (Administrative Assistant); Sandy Normand (Mission Education Coordinator) Trish Holst (Executive Assistant)

Absent from photo are: Bishop Don Bolen (Bishop's Representative), Therese Jelinski (Board Member, Saskatoon), Joy Mendel (Ethicist, Saskatoon), Scott Irwin (CHMS).



"Not to Be Forgotten"

Report Released by the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care

Released on November 17, 2011, the report titled "Not to be Forgotten" reflects the testimony of hundreds of Canadians who appeared at 24 hearings and local round table meetings held throughout Canada. CHAS was pleased to be involved in hosting and facilitating a round table discussion held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in November 2010 with both MP Kelly Block (Committee Co-founder) and MP Rob Clarke present.

The Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care (PCPCC), which involved over 55 Members of Parliament from across party lines, worked together to promote awareness, while effectively proposing policies with a constructive framework that deals with long-term health issues in Canada.

The report is divided into three sections: the first highlights research, education and eldercare training, as well as Innovative program training for medical students in the area of palliative care. The second illuminates facts on suicide rates in Canada and proposes a comprehensive national suicide strategy. The third outlines how Canada can establish a coherent system of intervention for elder abuse.

The recommendations specific to palliative care include:

- Federal government re-establish a Palliative Care Secretariat with adequate funding to conduct and support research, and facilitate communication and collaboration between the various levels of government, and community stakeholders.
- Development of a flexible integrated model of palliative health care delivery that takes into account Canada's geographic, regional and cultural diversity, along with a funding mechanism for implementation by provinces and territories
- Federal government, through either Health Canada or the recommended Palliative Care Secretariat, fund a national public awareness campaign on palliative and end-of-life care.
- Federal government expand the provisions of the E.I. based compassionate care benefit to a minimum of 26 weeks coverage.

The report can be electronically accessed at www.pcpcc-cpspsc.com.