



Ontario Conference News

Electronic Newsletter of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®

July 9, 2008

In this Issue...

1. News

- **Fire Destroys Peel Adventist School**
- **“Christ, Our Only Hope” at Ontario Camp Meeting 2008**
- **Angola: Rebuilding Country Promotes Freedom of Belief**
- **Adventist Church President Continues Call for Involvement of Women, Youth in Leadership**

2. Coming Events

3. Other Ads

NEWS

Fire Destroys Peel Adventist School

Oshawa, Ontario July 9, 2008...OCN

On Friday, July 4, 2008, fire destroyed Peel Adventist School. Around 3:30 p.m., neighbours saw smoke and fire rising from the roof of the school building and called the Fire Department. By the time the first fire engine arrived at the school at 57 McMurchy Ave. South in Brampton, fire had already engulfed the entire roof which then collapsed into the building.

There was shock and disbelief as news of the fire reached the leaders of the Ontario Conference, just fifteen minutes away, as they were overseeing the final preparations for the annual camp meeting at the International Centre, Mississauga.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think that one of our schools would burn” said Dr. Frances Schander, education superintendent.

Principal Manuela Terencio was equally shocked. “I couldn’t believe it,” she said. “I was standing in front of the building wondering how it could have happened.”

As church leaders arrived at the school, they were met with a scene of complete devastation.

“I felt totally overwhelmed by the magnitude of the loss,” commented Schander. “Here is a building worth in excess of a million dollars and all that’s left of it are burnt out walls.”

She added that she was grateful that there was no one in the building at the time, and had the fire taken place even a week earlier, it would have been very difficult because teachers were still going to the building daily.

Among those watched in disbelief as the building burned were some of the pupils who lived nearby. One asked the principal what would happen to the fish in the fish tank in a classroom. Another said that he did not want the walls to fall.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, but it appears that it began in a plastic waste bin that was located outside the north wall of the building. The flames quickly reached the roof and set it on fire.

The damage is so extensive that it is unlikely that it can be ready for school in September. The TADSB is already looking at alternative locations to house the school until the property is rebuilt. The school board is confident that school will be open in September as planned.

"There will definitely be school in September," said Schander, "just not at the old site."

The school building was a former *Biway* store that had been purchased and refurbished by the Toronto Adventist School Board (TADSB) in 2003, to house the pupils of Peel Adventist School.

Halsey Peat

"Christ, Our Only Hope" at Ontario Camp Meeting 2008

Oshawa, Ontario, July 9, 2008...OCN

Dr. Don King brought hope to many at Ontario Conference's camp meeting on July 5, 2008. Preaching three messages of hope in the adult section of camp meeting at the International Centre, Mississauga, he spoke of Jesus being the only hope for mankind.

"He comes to you at your point of pain," he declared on Sabbath morning. "In the deepest moment of your pain, He comes to you."

The message of 'Hope for Broken Hearts' appeared to resonate with so many of the 5,000 worshippers that they returned to hear him preach in both the Commissioning Service during the afternoon and the evening service.

"It was such a spirit-filled morning with Pastor Don King, and the music was so inspiring", said Sister Campbell of Perth Avenue Adventist Church, "I just had to return."

Yvette Reid, also from Perth Ave added, "the sermon was perfect for me. I couldn't ask for anything better. It just filled my soul."

Pastor Furman F. Fordham II was the speaker for the young adults and youth. Their meetings started on the previous evening at Toronto West Adventist Church and continued on Sabbath morning at the International Centre. Nearly 2,000 youth and young adults enthusiastically praised God and listened as Pastor Fordham spoke of the gift of freedom from sin.

"I really liked the preacher for the youth," said Natalia from College Park, "he was good!"

Mahalia Jackson from Toronto also admired the preacher but added that her highlight was the "the praise and worship".

Debra Carby, Children's Ministry director, and her faithful team of pastors and leaders, hosted a well-planned and exciting programme for nearly 900 children in three separate divisions.

For the first time in nearly a decade, no ordination service was held for pastors. Instead, the equally important ministry of teaching was highlighted when six teachers, Claude and Linda Bastien (Windsor Adventist Elementary School), Dana Chant and Michelle DeSilva (College Park Elementary School), Brenda Gabriel-Knight (Crawford Adventist Academy), Gisela Hoelzel and Verlaine Linrud (Grandview Adventist Academy) were commissioned.

Camp Meeting is also a time of evangelism. Church Growth and Evangelism Coordinator Dr. Errol Lawrence led out in a period of conference-wide evangelism. In addition to pastors reporting on what was taking place in their communities, a group of pathfinders from Mount Zion Filipino Adventist Church shared their experience about their efforts to "Tell Ontario" that Jesus is coming soon.

As the meetings concluded, there were those who were already looking forward to July 4, 2009 when they hope to return to next year's camp meeting.

Angola: Rebuilding Country Promotes Freedom of Belief

July 8, 2008 Luanda, Angola SID Staff/ANN

Some 45,000 Angolans gathered at a sports stadium in Luanda, June 28, to celebrate freedom of religion in their country, which is rebuilding in the aftermath of a 27-year civil war that ended in 2002.

The festival, the largest to date, followed a three-day religious liberty congress sponsored by the International Religious Liberty Association and attended by 600 religious liberty proponents, faith leaders and governmental representatives from the southwest African nation and around the world.

In his keynote address, IRLA secretary-general John Graz thanked the government of Angola for promoting and defending religious liberty and singled out those who fought for the freedoms the country currently enjoys. Such festivals, typically held in tandem with IRLA congresses, are an important way of recognizing a country's efforts to ensure freedom of belief, Graz has said.

"The only alternative to religious freedom is intolerance or persecution. The 45,000 people who participated in the Luanda festival made a choice between freedom and persecution," Graz said. "They chose freedom."

The festivals, a three-year initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist world church's department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, are meant not only to express gratitude for existing religious liberties and those who've supported them, but also to serve as incentives for public leaders positioned to influence policy to uphold freedom of belief.

The first large-scale religious liberty festival was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2006 and drew some 12,000 attendees. Similar festivals are planned around the world this year and next, with the first World Festival of Religious Freedom scheduled for November 2009 in Lima, Peru.

Adventist Church President Continues Call for Involvement of Women, Youth in Leadership

July 2, 2008 Jacarei, SP, Brazil Ansel Oliver/ANN

President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Jan Paulsen, brought the latest episode of his live, televised dialogues with pastors to South America yesterday, encouraging local churches to include women and young members in leadership.

Paulsen spoke through a translator during two separate episodes with seven pastors from Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries in "Pastors: In Conversation." The third and fourth unscripted telecasts were broadcast internationally on the church's Hope Channel from here at the Adventist Media Center -- Brazil.

When asking about challenges specific to the region, most participants spoke to issues that have resonated in other regional pastoral dialogues: intercultural ministry and training lay leadership.

"The church will do well when the spiritually gifted lay people in the local church are activated," Paulsen said. "A church does not do well when it relies entirely on the pastor."

Paulsen also spoke to another universal challenge of prioritizing one's own family.

"Your wife, your closest partner should also receive a sense that your care for her is not diminished by your care for the church, and that [your] children feel they have a high value in your setting aside quality time," Paulsen said.

The task can be a difficult one when some pastors are in charge of more than one church, Paulsen acknowledged. One pastor, Pablo Carbajal from Ecuador, said he pastors 72 different churches.

Paulsen learned from the group that women make up more than 70 percent of local congregations. He asked how they were leading out in ministry.

Carbajal said women made up nearly 70 out of 80 attendees of a recent leadership workshop. Pastor Nelsen Tapia from Chile said many women are involved in a hospitality ministry, while Pastor David Barzola from Argentina said some women are preaching and offering counselling.

Roughly, a quarter of a million people join the Adventist Church in South America each year.

Paulsen has hosted previous conversations with pastors in North America and Europe and will host another episode in Africa in August.

COMING EVENTS

July 12 & 13

Adventist Health Screening in Brooklin

The Brooklin Branch Sabbath School will be holding its Adventist health screening at Grass Park in Brooklin, Ontario, the weekend of July 12, 2008. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach this new community. If any nurses in the Brooklin, Whitby or Oshawa areas are willing to volunteer, please email Vaughn Berkeley at vsberkeley@yahoo.com or for more information.

July 20

A Gala Occasion – Ontario Conference Pathfinder Fair

Announcing the Fair of the century! Everyone is invited to CONNECT DOT COM, the Ontario Conference Pathfinder Fair at Downsview Park on **July 20, 2008**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Come and enjoy fun and games; test your Bible trivia; bring your craft items. Be part of the “Market Place” where “goodies” would be on sale. Register through your local pathfinder club. See you there!

July 21-25

VBS at Kendalwood

Vacation Bible School, July 21-25, 2008, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Hear the music and smell the popcorn! Come enter **SonWorld Adventure Park at Kendalwood Church**, where kids will discover that choosing Jesus is the ticket to the best ride of their lives. **To register your child online for VBS, please go to www.kendalwood.com**

July 27

Hope's Second Annual Community Health Faith

The Hope Church is inviting you to our second annual Community Health Fair on Sunday, July 27, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., to be held at 20, 30 and 40 Falstaff Avenue apartment complex. Prior to the fair, we will be having a parade, starting at 11:00 a.m. This is an initiative which is designed to empower members of the community to take charge of their health by providing them with relevant information and assistance with the issues surrounding wellness and longevity.

The ambulance, police and Fire Departments, as well as other dignitaries, are also being invited, and we are hopeful that Sparky the Fire Dog will be able to join us.

August 1- 10

Invitation to Toronto West's Mortgage Elimination Celebration

The Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church extends an invitation to you to join us in our “Mortgage Elimination Celebration” from **Friday, August 1- Sunday, August 10, 2008**, under the theme: *“Ordinary People, Extraordinary Celebration”*. Our guest speakers are Pastor Fitzroy Maitland (Aug. 2), Pastors Steve Cassimy and Derrick Nichols (Aug. 9). Request for advertisements can be communicated to Sister Sherene Cole-Watson, the communications secretary, at sherewatson@sympatico.ca by June 30, 2008.

August 11-15

VBS at Elliot Lake

Vacation Bible School at Elliot Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church, Aug 11-15 from 9-11:15 am. Castles and Crowns a Royal Adventure. To register, call 1-705-848-9728.”

September 1

CAA Elementary French/Phys. Ed. Teaching position

A full-time French/physical education elementary teacher is needed at Crawford Adventist Academy, Toronto, beginning **September 1, 2008**. Applicant must be a committed Seventh-day Adventist, be legally able to work in Canada, and be eligible for denominational and/or provincial certification. Ability to teach French using the A.I.M. method would be an asset.

Submit resume and cover letter to Dr. Frances Schander, Superintendent of Education, at fschander@adventistontario.org or by fax to 905-571-5995. Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

September 18-21

Canadian Adventist Youth Summit (CAYS): September 18-21, 2008, Pugwash, Nova Scotia.

Keynote Speaker: Pastor Eddy Hypolite (South England Conference). Pastor Hypolite was well received in February by the youth in Dallas at the NAD Youth Summit, and he is sure to present inspiring messages at **CAYS!**

CAYS will be a meeting for youth, young adults and their leaders from across Canada taking place in the Maritime Conference. This summit will give teens, college/university students, and their leaders an opportunity to take their spiritual walk to the next level. CAYS will help everyone to "Think It, Believe It, Do It" for Christ! Start planning now to be a part of this event.

Get your registration form at www.AdventistYouth.ca, fill it in and fax it to the Ontario Conference Youth Ministries Department at 905-571-4781. Bus transportation is being organized by the Youth Ministries Department. For cost and details, contact Lila Oliveira at 905-571-1022; ext. 215.

OTHER ADS

GTA Adventist Community Services Federation

The Executive of the GTA Adventist Community Services Federation extend our warmest greetings to community services workers. We are planning our annual meeting in the fall of 2008 and will be sending out a letter to Community Services leaders in the extended GTA region so look out for it. The PR/Fundraising officer, Vaughn Berkeley, is seeking a few techno savvy youth volunteers for a couple of IT projects. We're looking for youth with skills in Linux, video editing, and desktop publishing. If you're up for the challenge, please send an email to Vaughn at pr@gtaacsf.org If you are a community service leader and want to know more about the federation, please contact our president, Joe Mitchell, at 416-676-6636 or president@gtaacsf.org

Crawford Adventist Academy (Toronto) requires a director of Development and Alumni Affairs beginning September 2008

The successful candidate:

- * will seek and cultivate financial support for CAA through an Annual Fund, major gifts, grant writing, and planned giving.
- * cultivate and nurture alumni and community relations.
- * administer fundraising efforts.
- * implement a capital campaign for a new school facility.

The candidate must be:

- * Legally able to work in Canada.
- * A Seventh-day Adventist.
- * Committed to Adventist education.

Interested candidates should submit a resume to Norman Brown, supervising principal, at normanbrown@rogers.com

Full-time Teacher Needed

College Park Elementary School (Oshawa, Ontario)

A full-time music/French teacher is needed beginning September 1, 2008. Duties would include teaching classroom music to K-4, as well as choral music to grades 5-8. In addition, the successful applicant would teach grades 6-8 French. Ability to teach French (preferably using the A.I.M. method) would be an asset. Applicant must be a committed Seventh-day Adventist, be legally able to work in Canada, and be eligible for denominational and/or provincial certification.

Submit resume and cover letter to Frances Schander, superintendent of education, at fschander@adventistontario.org. Only candidates chosen for interviews will be contacted.

Timmins Adventist Church Is Looking for the Following Members:

Baribeau Marc - Bond Gilles - Boudreau Eve-Lynn - Marshall Renee - Mills Chuck - Nakogee Brian R. - Rochon Gladys.

If you have any helpful information about any of the above members, please contact Pastor Didier Fourny at dfourny@adventistontario.org; 613-937-3124 or Elder Will Marcoux at timminselder@adventistontario.org; 705-272-2116.

Do you need office space for your ministry? Furnished office at prime downtown Toronto location at College and Yonge Street available two days per week. Please call (416) 203-0451 for further information.

Assistant Men's Dean/Fitness Complex Worker

Kingsway College is accepting applications for a half-time men's dean and half-time Fitness Complex worker for the 2008-2009 school year. Duties include supervision and management of the dorm, periodic dorm worships, student dorm labour supervision, and help with campus duties as needed by administration and general Fitness Complex responsibilities. Resumes accepted until May 31, 2008. For more information, contact Greg Bussey via email at busseyg@kingswaycollege.on.ca, via phone at 905-433-1144 ext. 217 or via fax at 905-433-1156.

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

OCNews is the property of Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Articles may be copied for use in other publications; however, reference to *OCN* should be clearly displayed.

Advertisements Policy:

Accepted advertisements will be church events only. No personal or commercial advertisements. Plain

OCN is a publication of the Communications Department of the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

Phone: 905-571-1022 - Fax: 905-571-5995
Director: Halsey Peat
E-mail: hpeat@adventistontario.org
Layout/Typing: Sarah Gouda
E-mail: sgouda@adventistontario.org

text only. Events are included as a service and not as an obligation. OCN reserves the right to exclude any advertisements of events.

E-mail: OCN@adventistontario.org
Website: www.AdventistOntario.org