



OUTDOOR COUNCIL
OF CANADA

To Inform & Engage

CONNECTIONS

Issue No 5 - December 2011

Our Vision

Every Canadian will have access to outdoor education and recreation.

Our Mission

To promote and enable accessible education and recreation in the outdoor environment.

Our Members

- Are people like you: Anybody who is active in the outdoors, and who has led others there, is invited to join us as a 'Practitioner Member'. You will help support the health and positive development of outdoor activities and education.
- Are organizations like yours: Your organization can join as an 'Associate Member' and help build our industry.

The Outdoor Council of Canada held its annual AGM on October 29th at the University of Calgary. It's an exciting time for the OCC and we are pleased to bring you this report from the recent AGM.



Albi Sole - OCC Executive Director



This fall was a very exciting time for me, and the Outdoor Council of Canada/Conseil Canadien de Plein Air (OCC/CCPA). During the delivery of three LL1 Instructor courses I had the privilege of working with amazing outdoor leaders from across Canada. I couldn't help but be impressed by the commitment they have for their work and the depth and diversity of their experiences. Each of these `courses` felt very much like The OCC/CCPA has become a much stronger organization through their inclusion in our ranks.

For the OCC/CCPA, momentum is growing. We now have certified instructors in BC, Alberta, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Yukon. In October we delivered the beta versions for the winter and navigation modules, and the water version of LL1 will be ready soon. The

Canadian Camping Association has endorsed the LL1 certification and we hope to see lots of training going on there in the upcoming year. All in all, the outdoor `industry` is telling us that it likes what we are doing, and they want to be part of it.

Will Woods - LL1 Instructor



People get into leading others in the outdoors because of their passion. Passion for adventure, wilderness, camaraderie or learning. The most exciting thing about the OCC is that this passion is on display at all levels of what is going on right now. When I became a LL1 instructor the room was full of outdoor professionals whose passion was on display. When I joined the Curriculum Development Committee the faces around the table all had that same passion, and it was the same passion that was on the faces of the participants in the first LL1 course that I taught. That's what gets me excited; the OCC is out to train and equip people to be better prepared to share their passion with others! That is why I am involved with the OCC, at all levels of the organization the emphasis is on people sharing their passion for the outdoors with others. This is

so front-and-center for the OCC that it's the whole first chapter of the LL1 manual and what we instructors talk about right after we mention there will be a test. At a time when it seems like there are many voices trying to restrict what outdoor leaders do, I am involved with the OCC because they are about helping outdoor leaders be better at what they do.



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Report from the AGM

Ian Sherrington - CCDC Chair



For those unfamiliar with the mandate of the Certification and Curriculum Development Committee (CCDC), we are made up of a group of

professionals representing various aspects of the outdoor industry such as private guiding businesses, other certifying bodies, post secondary education and children's camps. The CCDC is essentially a think tank that responds to broad directives provided by the OCC Board of Directors regarding where the organization wishes to focus its energy as it edges out of organizational infancy.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the members of the committee for all their hard work over the past year in the creation of curriculum and the establishment and refinement of OCC certification processes. This good work included (but was not limited to) long discussions surrounding the advent of an instructor level course, the selection process of instructor candidates and the mapping out of curriculum for both the Leadership Level 1 course and various additional skills modules. This curriculum then had to be synthesized into student and instructor

manuals with the requisite long hours of edits that accompany this step (thank you Jo-Anne Reynolds and Robyn Rankin).

A big philosophical push of the past year has been building capacity within the OCC; creating and offering our first Instructor Course was the culmination of this desire. Several Instructor Course have been offered across the country, providing the OCC with a much needed boost in the numbers of individuals qualified to teach the LL1 courses. If you are interested in becoming a course provider, please find the application package under the Instructor Training tab on the website.

Finally, the committee also created a slate of potential skills acquisition modules to augment the core OCC course curriculum. Curriculum has currently been created for two modules: Navigation and Winter Skills. These short courses were established to allow practitioners to expand their skill set for typically encountered environments while remaining within the terrain guidelines of OCC policy. On the AGM weekend, the first Navigation and Winter Skills modules were offered.

The committee has various goals for the coming year: embedding OCC curriculum into post-secondary outdoor programs, refinement of existing course

curriculum and learning materials, and continued work on skill acquisition modules. We have experienced some attrition over the past 12 months, so if



photo credit - Allyson Brown

any OCC members desire prestige, fame and fortune, perhaps you might consider offering your services to the committee. I would like to acknowledge outgoing committee members Bert East, Greg McDougall, and Dave Watt for their contributions over the past couple of years.

Thanks again to the committee for helping move the OCC along as it grows towards its goal of being a Canada wide organization making a positive impact on folks getting active and getting outside.



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Elsbeth Schwizer - Director of Membership



I am excited to be a part of the Outdoor Council of Canada and to be the new Director of Membership. While in this position, I hope to keep the membership informed of opportunities for members and other developments with the Outdoor Council of Canada. We are working on expanding communication via social media – check us out on Facebook!

Throughout the past year, we have truly become national in scope. The OCC Board now consists of members from all across our great country, all of whom share the vision of the OCC and are passionate about the great outdoors.

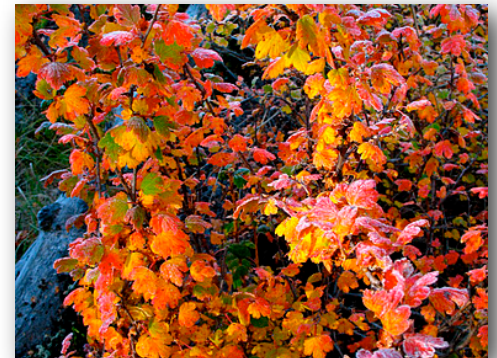
I encourage the membership to contact me with any questions regarding the OCC or if anybody is looking for volunteer opportunities or other ways to get involved. Thank you for your support! and I am looking forward to an exciting term.

OCC Camp Leadership Training program

The [Camp Leadership Training Program](#) is our way of assisting camps to develop effective and safety-oriented outdoor leaders. These leaders are ones who facilitate meaningful outdoor experiences and help campers develop a connection with and love for the natural world. See our [Camp Initiative Program](#), [Leadership Level 1](#), and [Leadership Level 1 Instructor](#) brochures for more information.

This program makes the LL1 course available to camp leaders free of charge and includes a one-year OCC membership. Senior camp leaders can also apply to become an LL1 instructor for free.

Camp leaders will develop: Leadership, group management, Leave No Trace ethics, and emergency management skills. Leaders will gain: Self confidence, improved risk management and hazard identification skills, trip planning, facilitation, and debriefing skills and a nationally recognized certification.



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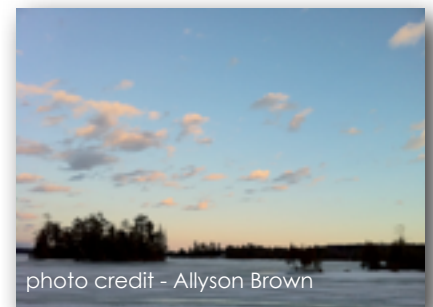


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