



OUTDOOR COUNCIL
OF CANADA

To Inform & Engage

CONNECTIONS

Issue No 3 - Winter 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.

Leadership Level One in Review..."Outside is better than inside."

"very informative, especially if you are new to guiding"... "instructors were very sensitive & respectful to people and their needs"... "very competent instruction"... "refreshingly progressive"... "the communication of the leader was excellent"... "Great reminder & affirmation with new tricks & techniques"... "Great job. A pleasure to meet & learn from you."... "[I would recommend this course] to my colleagues & teachers who plan on taking groups out."... and our favourite because it applies to life in general..."outside is better than inside!"



Promote the LL1 course in your organization and amongst your friends. See the OCC [website](#) for more info about the course and upcoming dates and to register.

Learn more and connect with the community by checking out these helpful resources

OCC Facebook group

OCC discussion forum

Canadian Avalanche Centre

Children and Nature Network

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

Inside Education

Global Environmental & Outdoor Education Council

Canadian Camping Association

Peakfinder

Interpretive Guides Association

Wild Adventure

Alpine Club of Canada

The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

Leave No Trace





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Report from the Field

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Confessions of a new (outdoors) Mom:

Did someone say skiing?

- **Alanna Thompson**

I'm a new mom. My life has changed drastically in the last 11 months. I no longer have first hand knowledge of the ever-changing Rockies backcountry conditions and I now have first hand knowledge of my son's ever-changing bowel movements. But I have a confession to make: I seem not always to care about the things other moms care about. I've had too many conversations like this recently:

Me: Aw...cute baby. (*I've found this works better than "Aw...your baby looks exactly like a mini Winston Churchill"*)

Her: Thanks...your baby is super cute too. (*I know this of course*)

Me: Are you getting any sleep?

Her: Oh I don't even want to talk about sleep! I've been trying the progressive resistance method for 13 days now and he's just not responding, I'm considering either the Mitchell-Waterton-no-fuss-early-sleeping method or the classic "primitive-peoples-of-the-ancient-near-east-bounce-and-chant" method, but I just can't decide which will most increase his college entry

IQ...blargedee-blargh...nap schedules...early childhood songs...diapers...blarghblagargh...

Me: wwwhhhaaaa?

For awhile, I despaired. I have a few outdoors-oriented Mom-friends fortunately, but it seemed every new Mom I met was destined to be only a "momquaintance" with whom I could discuss sleeping, eating, pooping, and clothing. But then one day I met another outdoors-mom. We have mutual friends, we have similar work backgrounds, we have similar hobbies (and similar husbands interestingly) and we connect. We get together to go for walks outside, we talk about trips we want to do, tips for baby-camping, what it's like to work in the outdoor industry, and then to not work in the outdoor industry and gear...oh gear!...how I miss talking about gear.

A couple of weeks later I overheard another Mom say she skis into Assiniboine every winter. I had already noticed her Subaru with the ski box on top, and the non-trendy-and-technical down jacket. And my sharp ears picked up that magical word "ski" from across the room. I nonchalantly but quickly moved over to where she was sitting to casually (*really...*) joined in, in a cool and non-

desperate way. Then I practically stalked her.

But all facetiousness aside, the outdoors still is what connects me to new friends. Knowing someone has shared your experience of your environment, celebrated the same way, pushed through the same long days in bad weather, had the same spiritual connection...this all has a way of bonding you. At least a little more than poop and growth charts.





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Upcoming Courses & Contact Info

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Upcoming Instructors Courses

Date: June 11 & 12 **Location:** Camp Wenonah, Ontario

Date: May 7 & 8
May 24 & 25 **Location:** Calgary

Date: June 4 & 5 **Location:** Vancouver



Expand your teaching repertoire and offer LL1 courses in your community. If you are confident in your ability to teach and facilitate learning in others, and comfortably perform outdoor program director responsibilities, this is the course for you. See our [website](#) for more details, and application procedure.



Who wants an LL1 course?

Take a Leadership Level 1 course and learn the essentials of outdoor leadership. Interested in being an OCC instructor but want a little more prep? Come on out for the LL1 course to prepare for your instructor training. For more info about the course, upcoming dates and registration details please see our [website](#).

Volunteers needed! Help out your outdoor community. We need volunteers to put together Connections, the OCC newsletter and we are looking for a dedicated volunteer with web development experience to maintain the OCC website. Please contact [Alanna Thompson](#) if you can help us out.

Contact Information

The Outdoor Council of Canada

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OUTDOOR COUNCIL
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Greetings

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Bernie Woods - OCC President

There is nothing quite like the look of wonder that fills a young face the first time they see a meadow choked with wildflowers...a 360 degree summit panorama...the night sky filled with stars. This kind of profound experience can ignite a lifetime of discovery in the outdoors and a passion for sharing those moments with others.

We know the many positive impacts that come from connecting with our natural world and the importance of maintaining those connections in a nation blessed with an abundance of wild spaces.

The focus of the Outdoor Council of Canada is to encourage discovery and adventure in Canada's vast outdoors by providing a national program of leadership education and training that will enable all Canadians to enjoy our natural heritage. We are committed to nurturing the participation of Canadians in our natural environments.

To be successful, we need outdoor leaders from all regions of Canada and all parts of the industry to bring their skill and experience to this initiative. I want to invite you to join us as we work to expand the role of outdoor education and recreation in the health and well being of our nation.



Albi Sole - OCC Executive Director

The last 2 years and 4 months have been quite a journey. On that day when we decided to launch a national organization to represent and support outdoor leaders I don't think we quite realized quite how much work would have to be done to make the vision a reality. Since that time we have brought together a committed group with very diverse backgrounds and forged them into a community that is developing an increasingly clear path toward make a real difference in Canada. While progress has seemed slow at times, that patience will really pay off in terms of making sure we are the right organization doing the right things to make our vision that 'Every Canadian will have access to outdoor education and recreation' becomes a reality. Launching our Instructor's course in May will be the next big milestone that will make the Leadership Level 1 certification widely available.



Jeff Storck - OCC Vice President

Greetings OCC Members, At the last board meeting on January 20th I was nominated to take on the role as Vice President of the Outdoor Council of Canada and was greatly honored to accept this position. I do so with the knowledge that such a role has many responsibilities, especially with such a young organization. I recognize that many great strides have been made to get us where we are today and that many more opportunities exist now and in the future to provide all Canadians with access to outdoor education and recreation.

I am a graduate of the Adventure Guide program at the Thompson River University and hold certification from the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides, the Canadian Avalanche Association, Rescue Canada, and Wilderness Medical Associates, among others. I have worked for the University of Calgary Outdoor Centre, Mountain Equipment Co-op, the YMCA and am now going into my fifth year with the Tim Horton Children's Foundation.

I am the Program Manager at the Tim Horton Children's Ranch in Kananaskis, Alberta. The Ranch uses an adventure education approach to providing economically disadvantaged children with a camp experience that includes horseback riding, white water rafting, climbing and hiking.

Let me welcome all of you to engage me in discussion about the direction of the OCC. I look forward to the responsibilities of Vice President and helping to promote and enable accessible education and recreation in the outdoor environment.