

Alberta Block Parent Association 2013 Annual Report

National Symposium and Annual General Meeting

Because it had been many years since training had been offered to the Provincial Board, the decision was made to take the whole board to the Block Parent® Program of Canada Inc (BPPCI) Symposium and AGM held in Ottawa.

Although on a much smaller scale than previous years, the Provincial Board still were able to take part and learnt a lot from the speakers. This was also a good time to network with other Provincial delegates.

On the Saturday evening an Awards Dinner was held and three Alberta delegates were presented with BPPCI pins. Jocelan Darnel, Donna Fox and Mary Telfer were presented with Silver pins. Olunda Dorward was presented with a Gold pin and Lynn Squance was presented with a Jewelled pin. These pins are presented for years of service combined with certain other criteria.



Alberta Block Parent Association Annual General Meeting

The 2012 AGM, held in Leduc, was so successful that it was decided to hold the 2013 AGM there again. Turnout was good with some new Programs taking part.

Delegates in attendance were from the following Programs:

Cardston
Fort McMurray
Fort Saskatchewan
Fox Creek
Grande Prairie
Morinville
Okotoks
Redcliff
Sherwood Park

We were very pleased that Sgt. Blaine Rahier from RCMP "K" Division was able to attend and make a presentation on what constitutes crime prevention.

Yearly award pins were presented at the meeting. Also, at this time Block Parent Program of Canada Silver pins were presented to Chere Brown, Betty Lawrence and Suzanne Beaulne.

After serving as President of the ABPA board for the past 9 years, Olunda Dorward decided to step down this year. We thank her for her dedication to the Block Parent Program and the many hundreds of hours she has worked as a volunteer at the local and Provincial levels.

Elections were made and the ABPA Board is made up as follows:

Donna Fox (President)
Jocelan Darnel (Vice President)
Lorna Spargo (Secretary)
Tanya Sloan (Treasurer)
Donald Shideler (Director)
Mary Telfer (Director)
Jackie Luker (Director)

Fundraising

Because of making a loss, rather than a gain, with the calendar sales in 2012/2013, it was decided that no more calendars would be produced. There is still one canvasser going door to door for donations but this is only in the City of Calgary.

Other means of fundraising and grant applications are being searched out.

News from Alberta Programs

Blackfalds

We are just getting the Blackfalds Block Parent Program active again. We distributed 600 Halloween pamphlets to our elementary school and the local play school program. We have created a Blackfalds Block Parent Facebook group and currently have 60 members of the group.

Fort McMurray

Block Parents in Fort McMurray sit on the Childhood Injury Prevention Committee of Safe Community Wood Buffalo. As such, we volunteer at a number of community/school events. Smartrisk is aimed at grade eight students and the choices that they make. This is a National program which we have participated in for the last couple of years.



The Fort McMurray Block Parent Association worked on the Model School Zone Project (an international project of Safe Kids Worldwide) with Safe Community Wood Buffalo and Road Safety to come up with an education campaign aimed at keeping kids safe in crosswalks and school zones. While it isn't directly related to the Block Parent mandate, it is part of how we reach out to the community to let them know we're here – we get REALLY involved.

We have been working on this webinar since April. <http://fmpsdschools.ca/safeschoolzones>

Redcliff

In the summer we held a BBQ, together with Citizens on Patrol, and invited Lynn Squance from the Provincial office to attend and hand out award pins to our Block Parents. Many awards were presented at this event. We were also very pleased to be able to present a BPPCI Silver Pin to one of our longstanding hard working Block Parents – Shawna Cockle. Unfortunately, due to illness, Shawna was unable to attend the BBQ.



Lynn Squance and Chere Brown with award recipients Barry & Norma Bueckert

Cardston

We took part in a Community Awareness Night. We set up a booth with handouts and we gave away prizes. I (Don) made a front of a house, with holes cut in it, with a Block Parent sign in the window. The children then threw bean bags through the holes.

Irricana



The Town of Irricana Community Services Board as part of its regular activities administers the Block Parent Program within our community. To date the board has had no incidents to report, and continues to promote awareness through a variety of annual activities including:

- ❖ Halloween Safety presentations in conjunction with “Light Up The Night” with the R.C.M.P. and the Irricana Volunteer Firefighters participation.
- ❖ Block Parent Information Display and Membership Drives at the Christmas Craft Day and the Winter Festival.
- ❖ Two 10 year awards and one Five year awarded was celebrated by our Block Parent Homes in 2013.

With our population of 1162 there are currently there are 8 block parent homes in the Town of Irricana.