

# OHNIG E NEWS LETTER

**O.H.N.I.G.**



**OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH NURSES  
INTEREST GROUP**

**OHNIG E Newsletter #23  
Sept 4, 2008**

Prepared by  
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Communications ENO  
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OHNIG /RNAO  
[http://www.rnao.org/Pag  
e.asp?PageID=751&SiteN  
odeID=113](http://www.rnao.org/Pag<br/>e.asp?PageID=751&SiteN<br/>odeID=113)

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**RNAO WEBSITE**  
<http://www.rnao.org/>

**OHNIG WEBSITE**  
[www.ohnig.org](http://www.ohnig.org)

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**OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH NURSES**

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**September 29 to  
October 26, 2008**

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cemonth.ca/index.php](http://www.healthyworkpla<br/>cemonth.ca/index.php)

1. Toronto Star Profiles Jill King's Occupational Health Nurse Career - Nursing Week Special Edition May 11, 2008
2. Elizabeth McGroarty Past Chairperson OHNIG - Perception of Today's Occupational Health Nursing
3. Louise Caicco Tett Offers Health and Safety Newsletter Resource
4. OHNIG Leaders Needed to Create Public Awareness of Occupational Health Nurse Work
5. OHNIG Needs NEW Leaders with Ambition to Carry on OHNIG Executive Work
6. University of Toronto Launches School of Public Health
7. Invitation to OHNIG members to Participate in OHNIG Planning Meeting

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1. Toronto Star Newspaper Profiles Jill King's Occupational Health Nurse Career in Nursing Week Special Edition May 11, 2008

I first spoke to the Toronto STAR reporter Paul Dalby in January 2008. I wanted to "pitched a story" for the STAR to write during "healthy workplace month" [September 29 to October 26, 2008]. RNAO had given my name to him. I wanted Paul to highlight the value added services that occupational health nurses perform. I hoped he'd write scenarios profiling the essential health care services that occupational health nurses provide for workers in the workplace. Hopefully Paul would write anecdotes on how occupational health nurse professionals with their specialized education in occupational and environmental health have provided health promotion, precaution, prevention, protection, pro-active and primary care to maintain healthy workers in healthy workplaces.

I was surprised in April 2008, when Paul Dalby called me back. He asked to do a story on my career as an Occupational Health Nurse for the May 11, 2008 Nursing Week Special section in the Toronto Star. I said YES!

I am proud of my very long and well rounded career as an Occupational Health nurse. For four decades my specialized nursing practice allowed me to consult in over 70 companies around the province as well as national and international work assignments. I hoped "my storey" serves as a big salute and pays tribute to every Occupational Health Nurse. The Toronto Star photographer did a "photo shoot" in my home office. The first time my desk was cleared of paper in weeks. Note the photo props: my mug "Make it Happen", my Health Consumer Report, my OOHNA journal, my CARP magazine and my Staples "that was easy" button. So here is my story, <http://healthzone.ca/health/article/421799>

Also in the Nursing Week Special, Marlene Demko, president of the Ontario Occupational Health Nurses Association [OOHNA] notes the serious decline in the numbers of practicing Occupational Health Nurses. Is it time all OHN work together to prevent the decline in our numbers?

<http://healthzone.ca/health/article/421798>

OHNIG Chairperson and Communication

Jill King [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

<p><b>see</b></p> <p><b>OHNIG</b> E Newsletter # 22 Jan 29, 2008</p>
<p><b>Occupational Health Nurses Working as a Team</b></p>
<p>brochure <a href="http://www.ohnig.org/Brochures/Brochure_no_1.pdf">http://www.ohnig.org/Brochures/Brochure_no_1.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>OHNIG</b> Enhancing Occupational Health Nursing Professional Practice Standards</p>
<p><b>OHNIG</b> Public Health Policy for Healthy Workers Healthy Workplaces</p>
<p><b>OHNIG</b> Leadership Alliances Research Networking Education BPG Resources</p>
<p>*****</p> <p><b>NETWORKING</b></p> <p>Health &amp; Safety Professionals Inc. 275 Second Line West P.O. Box 24036 Sault Ste. Marie ON P6C 6G7 Phone 705.254.3752 Toll free 877.254.3752 Fax 705.254.7365 Email <a href="mailto:ltett@hspinc.ca">ltett@hspinc.ca</a> Website <a href="http://www.hspinc.ca">www.hspinc.ca</a></p>

**2. Elizabeth McGroarty Past Chairperson OHNIG - Perception of Today's Occupational Health Nursing**

*“ Many Occupational Health Nurses(OHN)choose to belong to the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO), the Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group (OHNIG), as well as the Ontario Occupational Health Nurses Association (OOHNA)to benefit from the best that each group has to offer and to enhance the professionalism of the Occupational Health Nurses.*

*The Ontario Occupational Health Nurses Association (OOHNA) benefits all Occupational Health Nurses (OHN) because the organization is dedicated to marketing the services of and supporting Occupational Health Nurses, providing job advertisements and bringing educational opportunities through an annual conference. The OOHNA journal features articles specific to the specialty. However, OOHNA does tend to isolate Occupational Health Nurses from professional contact with other nurses, the broader health care picture and the hospital system. As well OOHNA has no concurrent membership in Canadian Nurses Association (CNA).*

*The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) and the Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group (OHNIG) benefit all Occupational Health Nurses because they promote the specialty to other nurses. OHNIG allows us to collaborate with our nursing colleagues on projects, in Interest Group meetings, at career fairs and Clinical Best Practices and Best Practice Guidelines Healthy Workplace Environments. OHNIG allows Occupational Health Nurses an expanded voice to influence health and safety management, public health care policy and through the wider contacts with other nurses and specialty groups at RNAO i.e. Public Health, Community Health, Nurse Educators, as well as attending Chapter and Region meetings throughout the province.*

*Concurrent CNA membership offers reduced fees for specialty examinations and certification. The Canadian Nurse and the RNAO Journal publish articles which detail developments in the health care system and other nursing specialties.*

*In the past, OOHNA provided insurance benefits that were not available through RNAO. However, many nurses have found through experience that the insurance benefits of both are roughly equivalent. It is unfortunate that this costly duplication must occur, but perhaps there will be some combined work to overcoming this in the future through the work of willing Occupational Health Nurses seeking a win/win solution”.*

*Liz McGroarty*

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**3. Louise Caicco Tett Offers Health and Safety Newsletter Resource**

Louise Caicco Tett OHNIG executive member shares her company's Health and Safety Newsletters. Louise writes to OHNIG members:

*“They are all online at [www.hspinc.ca](http://www.hspinc.ca) and listed under “newsletter”. If there is an article you like, go ahead and use it. All I ask is that you credit the writer, and the company. You can certainly forward the entire newsletter as well”.*

OHNIG members wish to express a BIG thank you to Louise for sharing this excellent resource material. [see left sidebar]

Regenerate  
Occupational Health  
Nursing through  
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GUIDELINES

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RESOURCES

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OHNIG  
Annual General  
MEETING

tentatively  
November 2008

Details will be sent

**BONUS!**

Free tickets to  
Momma Mia

first 10 responders

4. OHNIG Leaders Needed to Create Public Awareness of Occupational Health Nurse Work

*OHNIG Executive member Louise Caicco Tett asks:*

*How do we distribute to all media outlets? I often see Letters to the Editor from OMA, or other interest groups, and I don't know how they get there.*

Louise posed this question also:

*How do we go about getting occupational health into the Nursing Curriculum, on a consistent basis? From the students I've had working with me it's not a big part of the curriculum.*

Within RNAO are a myriad of available services including "how to contact the media or "how to write letters to the editor". OHNIG invites all OHNIG members to learn about and use the RNAO resources. Each individual OHNIG member could channel their own effort to publicize occupational health nursing and publically promote occupational health nursing. OHNIG members could "talk the talk" and "walk the walk" for necessary preventative health care for our worker clients in the workplace community. OHNIG members could be "pro-active" in emphasizing the need to put occupational and environmental health science into the curriculum of nursing students. At times there are misconceptions about the work Occupational Health Nurses do and we are excluded from the "discussions". Our work minimized or attributed to other specialties, suffers duplication and a poorly informed general public to what Occupational Health Nurses are capable of doing.

5. OHNIG Needs NEW Leaders with Ambition to Carry on OHNIG Executive Work

We need to hear from OHNIG members who are Occupational Health Nurses who have the same ambitions for our specialty, and who can carry on the OHNIG work from those of us who are retiring from practice.

There is still work much work to be done:

- Generate interest in OHNIG
- Creating mutual alliances
- BPG HWE Health, Safety & Wellness for i.e. health care workers
- Clinical practice guidelines
- Introduce students to our nursing specialty
- Strengthen communication with other Occupational Health Nurses.

Where are the future leaders out there..... those of us who regularly volunteer know that there are others with the same personal leadership and ideals that seek involvement in an ACTIVE association that matters to us. What kind of cross-over relationships can we develop as we seek to 'navigate the health care system' on behalf of our worker clients,

OHNIG Executive is organizing the OHNIG Annual General Meeting tentatively planned for November 2008.

All OHNIG members are invited to attend. Please notify us if you can make it. Support your organization. Participate, help, plan, be active and become an OHNIG executive team member! OHNIG executive is checking out teleconferencing opportunities at RNAO. Further details will be sent to OHNIG members and special guests.

Jill King and Liz McGroarty [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

**OHNIG**

<http://www.ohnig.org/>

Primary Health Care (PHC) by definition

" is the first level of contact of individuals, the family and community with the national health care system, bringing care as close as possible to where people live and work and constitutes the first element of a continuing health care process".(Primary Health Care, 1978) and

".health is created and lived by people within settings of their everyday life: where they learn, work, and play" (Hirschfeld & Holleran 1992).

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**OHNIG**

**Sept 26-27**

**Year at a Glance**

**Strategy Planning Session**

**Please join us!**

**5. University of Toronto Launches School of Public Health**

This as an excerpt sent to me for the OHNIG members: *The University of Toronto will throw open the doors to a new School of Public Health this September, following a \$20-million gift from Paul Dalla Lana, the founder and chairman of North West Healthcare Properties REIT.*

*The Dalla Lana School will be a hub for health researchers and educators dedicated to preventing disease and promoting public health. Research and instruction at the school – the largest of its kind in Canada – will focus on issues such as obesity, the West Nile virus and the performance of the health-care system, among other public health concerns.*

*The school’s first director will be Canadian-born epidemiologist Dr. Jack Mandel “I’m proud to help launch such a vital new Canadian institution that will tackle international challenges and opportunities in public health,” Mandel said at an event in April to announce the creation of the school. Mandel’s research specializes in the connection between certain cancers and the environment, work and lifestyle.*

*The school will work with the faculties of dentistry and nursing, the department of health policy management and evaluation and U of T’s affiliated hospitals, as well as local, provincial and national governments and public health agencies. It will offer graduate programs in biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental and occupational health sciences, public health administration and global health. Professor Catharine Whiteside, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, said the school will become an important centre for public health research in Canada and set a high standard for educational excellence. “The appointment of Jack Mandel as the Dalla Lana School’s inaugural director builds on a rich tradition at U of T of attracting international leaders, creating new knowledge and providing a peerless educational experience for our students.” – Christa Poole.*

Question: Do OHNIG members perceive Occupational and Environmental Health as part of workplace community public health?

Jill King [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

**6. Invitation to OHNIG members to Participate in OHNIG Planning Meeting**

OHNIG has a year end strategy planning meeting scheduled for Sept 26<sup>th</sup>/ 27<sup>th</sup>. 2008. We invite OHNIG members to send “what they think is necessary”. Help us plan our next “OHNIG Year at a Glance” picture. For more details [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

OHNIG executive offers a warm invitation to any OHNIG member who would join us Sept 26 and/or Sept 27. Come and participate in Occupational Health Nursing future. OHNIG will help defray your costs. If interested please contact [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

OHNIG complies with the Privacy Act per RNAO <http://www.rnao.org/privacy.asp> If you receive this e-mail as a service of your membership in the OHNIG and wish your name removed contact [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

Paul Dalla Lana's \$20-million gift will establish a new School of Public Health at U of T



Photo: Greg Tjepkema