

**BLOCK PARENT<sup>®</sup> PROGRAM**  
**of CANADA INC.**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

## **2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **BLOCK PARENT<sup>®</sup> PROGRAM OF CANADA INC.**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program is to provide immediate assistance through a safety network and to offer supportive community education programs.*

#### **President's Message:**

The Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program of Canada, Inc. would like to recognize and thank the many Block Parent<sup>®</sup> volunteers who continue to promote the Program and increase our numbers across the country.

In 2013 the Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program of Canada held their Annual Symposium and AGM in Ottawa, Ontario. I would like to acknowledge our Vice President for an excellent job in procuring our location and the planning of sessions from arms length. Some challenges occurred but for the most part the meetings were a success.

Workshops focused on many issues this year.

One workshop that was necessary to hold was the issue around the new Canada Corporations Act. All National corporations must meet the requirements of the new Act and as such our by-laws had to be rewritten to reflect the new Act.

A huge thank you goes to Director Teresa Stalis for this labour intensive job to rewrite the by-laws. The new by-laws were presented at our Symposium and were voted on at the AGM.

Other workshops included Social Media and the Internet – Presented by Cst. Nicole Miller of the Ottawa Police Force, an update on BPLink by Alain Dupuis Project Manager and last but certainly not least our yearly presentation from our Co-Operators Liaison, Jayne Russell.

At our Annual Awards Dinner we recognized several individuals for outstanding efforts on behalf of the Block Parent Program.

5 year pins were presented to Corinna MacDonald and Ali MacDougall, 10 year pins to Mike Byrne, Kathleen Chisholm, Debbie MacLeod and Carolyn Van Wort and a 15 year pin was presented to Kristy Bona.

Silver pins were presented to Jocelan Darnel, Donna Fox, Lorna Spargo, Mary Telfer and Carolyn Van Wort.

Gold Pins went to Mike Byrne, Olunda Dorward, Francine Chartrand and Teresa Stalis.

Ruby Pins were presented to Lynn Squance and Linda Patterson.

I would like to thank our National Sponsor the Co-operators and specifically Jayne Russell for her continued support of our Program in many ways.

I would like to acknowledge the Department of Public Safety for their continued financial support of our Program for core funding.

I would also like to thank the members of the National Board Mike Byrne, Francine Chartrand, Teresa Stalis, Lynn Squance, Lorna Spargo and Jason Heath for the hard work and support they have given to the Program and to me over the past year.

In closing I would like to thank our office staff, Carolyn Van Wort, Office Manager and Janet Fletcher, Provincial Liaison for their dedication to our Program. Both of these women continue to go above and beyond what is asked of them.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS for 2013:**

### **Annual General Meeting and Training Symposium:**

The Annual General Meeting and Symposium was held in Ottawa in May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program.

The credit for the success of the Symposium belongs to Michael Byrne for all his hard work to plan and organize the conference. This was the first time that BPPCI planned a Symposium and AGM remotely without a local committee in place.

The first day of the Symposium was dedicated to the presentation and explanation of the revised by-laws. The by-laws had to be rewritten to transition to the format requirements of the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. Teresa Stalis reviewed the existing bylaws and rewrote the BPPCI bylaws to meet the new standard. This required considerable time, effort and attention to detail.

The new bylaws were discussed by the Board of Directors and the draft of the format and content were finalized prior to the Symposium. The Board of Directors had held meetings prior to the Symposium to address the required revisions and ensure that the spirit of the original by-laws was retained. The arduous task of redrafting the by-laws was completed by Teresa Stalis. Teresa presented the new bylaws, explained the new wording, identified the additional information that is now required to be in the bylaws and fielded questions from the delegates.

An open discussion of the by-law changes by the delegates ensured understanding of the changes and process of the transition. The new bylaws were voted on and accepted at the AGM. The formal procedure of submitting the bylaws will now take place within the designated timeline.

Special recognition must be given to Teresa Stalis for her attention to detail in addressing the necessary format and wording changes that were required.

A presentation was also given by Cst. Nicole Miller of the Ottawa Police on Social Media and the Internet.

The presentation dealt with the information that can be found on the internet. Whatever is posted on the internet is there forever. The internet is “always on”. Once a message or image is in cyberspace the sender loses control over the material and cannot assume that it will remain private. The originator cannot delete the image or text from the internet. The most frightening thing is nothing in cyberspace ever gets deleted.

An update on the BPLink system was presented by Alain Dupuis. The system was officially launched in 2005. After 7 years the server had to be upgraded. BPLink was switched to a virtual server which is faster, cheaper, has more memory, more storage and is easier to upgrade. BPLink has also had a number of achievements. There is a high level of availability with no system crashes or unplanned disruption of services and no security breach of the system or intrusion by hackers. The user base has increased significantly over time and data integrity has been maintained.

BPLink still meets the goals that were set initially but faces a number of current challenges. The server is bombarded with thousands of attacks each week.

The plans for the future include bringing more features to BPLink, moving to a modern programming language and refreshing the look and feel of BPLink.

So much of the work that is performed on BPLink is done seamlessly and unknown by the end users. This would not be possible without the dedication and hard work that Alain Dupuis brings to BPLink. BPPCI is indeed fortunate to have Alain to rely upon.

**National Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Week:**

The theme for National Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Week in 2013 was “Block Parent<sup>®</sup>: Celebrate our Past; Become our Future!” A media release was placed on the National website which could be accessed by the local Programs and used to promote the Program.

**Business Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program:**

The Co-operators has always promoted the Business Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program with their advisors. However, this commitment to the Program by Co-operators was further enhanced when their support of the Business Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program was expanded into Quebec.

Kathy Bardswick, President of Co-operators, has sent out a note and a specialized manual to all agents to encourage the agents to become a Business Block Parent<sup>®</sup>.

There are 512 independent Co-operator Advisors in locations that rarely change and staff turnover is less than 11%. The Block Parent<sup>®</sup> guidelines for a business location, access and police checks has not changed. A window decal with a unique serial number is provided by the National Office once all the criteria for becoming a Business Block Parent<sup>®</sup> are met.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

The Program is characterized by a close working relationship with police, government departments, education and other community partners. This ongoing partnership is the basis for the continued success of the Program across Canada with the National and Provincial/Territorial boards or committees having a police liaison.

The BPPCI Board of Directors is committed to working with and supporting all levels of the Program on a personal level, by providing and circulating printed materials and public service announcements and by fostering effective communication. BPPCI continues to receive requests for information on how to start a Program from within Canada. The most recent requests from within Canada have come from Kensington and Cornwall, Prince Edward Island. BPPCI continues to receive numerous requests from various locations in British Columbia wanting to restart the Program. The interest in the Program still exists in British Columbia but local RCMP support is required before a Program can open. BPPCI continues to search for new partnership opportunities while fostering existing partnerships.

The National Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program is contacted throughout the year by individuals or groups internationally who are interested in starting up a local Program. A package of background information of the Program containing helpful tips in Program start-up, forms, sample brochures etc., is distributed upon request. The most recent International requests have come from England the United States.

## **NATIONAL FUNDING**

BPPCI is grateful to Public Safety Canada. The core funding provided is crucial to maintaining the viability of the Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program in Canada.

BPPCI is extremely grateful for the support received in 2013.

### ***The Co-operators:***

The Co-operators support of BPPCI while initially based on funding support has grown to include much more.

- \$ 75,000 in funds;
- \$ 1,500 one time additional funding to offset AGM banquet costs;
- Support and expertise offered on an ongoing basis;
- Assistance with the design and production of printed materials; and
- Commitment to register their agents, across Canada, as Business Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program locations.

BPPCI values this partnership and the continued support that The Co-operators has provided to the Program over the years.

## **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

The Board of Directors of the Block Parent<sup>®</sup> Program of Canada Inc. would like to thank all of our Block Parents for the hard work, effort and dedication to the Program that they have given over the years.

Throughout the year, over 13.8 million volunteer hours were provided by Block Parent<sup>®</sup> members in their homes with an additional ½ million volunteer hours provided by Business Block Parent<sup>®</sup> members. You make the Program possible and it is very much appreciated.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Linda Patterson - Oromocto, NB  
**Vice-President:** Michael Byrne - Reserve Mines, Cape Breton, NS  
**Treasurer:** Jason Heath - Sandford, ON  
**Secretary:** Lorna Spargo – Fort McMurray, AB  
**Director:** Francine Chartrand – Montreal, QC  
**Director:** Teresa Stalis – Niagara Falls, ON  
**Director:** Lynn Squance – Calgary, AB  
**Provincial/  
Territorial  
Chairpersons:** Alberta – Donna Fox, Okotoks, AB  
British Columbia – Position Open  
Manitoba – Teresa Melynychuk – Balmoral, MB  
New Brunswick – Linda Patterson – Oromocto, NB  
Newfoundland/Labrador – Position Open  
North of 60 – Position Open  
Nova Scotia – Michael Byrne – Reserve Mines, Cape Breton, NS  
Ontario – Position Open  
Prince Edward Island – Position Open  
Quebec – Marie-Claude Bouchard – Quebec City, QC  
Saskatchewan – Position Open  
Yukon – Position Open

**International  
Partners** Safer Communities Australia - Unley, South Australia  
Parents-Secours Belgium – Liege, Belgium

**Police Advisor:** RCMP - Ottawa, ON

**National Office:** 7-50 Dunlop Street East  
Barrie, Ontario L4M 6J9  
Phone/Fax: (705) 792-4245  
E-mail: [info@blockparent.ca](mailto:info@blockparent.ca);  
Web Site: [www.blockparent.ca](http://www.blockparent.ca)

**Auditor:** **Porter Héту International** Chartered Accountants – Bancroft, ON

**Annual General Meeting:** Saturday, May 10, 2014 – 2:00 PM  
Holiday Inn Vancouver Airport  
10720 Cambie Road  
Richmond, BC V6X 1K8

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**Block Parent<sup>®</sup>:**

**Celebrate our Past; Become our Future!**